

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Proposal to lower the age range at Hunsbury Park Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 years

STATUTORY NOTICE

1. Proposer details

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

2. School details

Hunsbury Park Primary School
Dayrell Road
Northampton
NN4 9RR

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is proposing to consult between Tuesday 13 August and Tuesday 10 September 2024, on a prescribed alteration to lower the age range for Hunsbury Park Primary School, Dayrell Rd, Northampton NN4 9RR from 4-11 to 2-11 years.

This will allow Hunsbury Park Primary School to take over the running of the early years and out of school club, located on site at Hunsbury Park Primary School (that is currently closed due to unforeseen circumstances). It is proposed that the nursery will re-open from Monday 23 September 2024 subject to a successful consultation process and statutory approvals being granted.

This will bridge the gap in provision for 2-11-year-olds in the local area.

4. Objectives and reasons

The main objectives and reasons for this proposal is to ensure there is continuity of provisions and services for families within the community of Hunsbury.

Hunsbury Park Primary School propose to continue running the previous term time, full day care model, offering flexible patterns to meet the needs of the working demographic. They will operate between 8am and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday and will offer 24 full time equivalent funded early education entitlement (FEEE) places to 2- 4 year olds and an out of school club for 4-11 years. However, to support a robust handover and to meet staffing requirements, they will be providing a staged approach by offering pre-school (3-year olds) morning and afternoon sessions in the first academic year (2024/25) and extended full nursery sessions to 2 and 3-year-olds in the second academic year (2025/26).

If the proposal to lower the age range is agreed, the school aim to take over the provision from Monday 23 September 2024, in order to minimise disruption for local families who had been accessing the provision, or were planning on accessing the provision, before its sudden closure. Although the school are proposing a staged approach by accepting 3-year olds in the first year (academic year 2024/25) and 2 year olds in the second year (2025/26) this is expected to have a minimal impact on families due to the low number of 2-year olds previously in attendance.

Under this proposal, children aged 2-4 years would formally become part of the same structure as the school within the nursery school provision and on the nursery roll. The changes proposed are expected to be permanent.

Children will benefit from one cohesive team working with the school's early years cohort and a high-quality teaching and learning experience with provision led by the Head of Early Years (QTS).

West Northamptonshire Council feel the provision will support younger children with school readiness and a smooth transition to reception, due to familiarity of the environment and staff.

The provision will also provide much needed wrap around care for 2-11-year-olds in the local area.

5. Related proposals

N/A

6. Project costs and how these will be met

Condition surveys of the current on-site provision will be undertaken by the LA to see if there will be any funding required for refurbishment.

7. Implementation date

The proposed opening date for the pre-school and after school club will be Monday 23 September 2024

8. Consultation

A public consultation will be held between 13 August 2024 and 10 September 2024, this will be made available to staff, governors, parents, children, wider local community, and stakeholders.

9. Procedure for making representations (support, objections, and comments)

Any person may object to, express support for or comment on this proposal by emailing placeplanningconsultation@westnorthants.gov.uk