



Proposal to extend the age range of Ann Cam C of E Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 years on 1st April 2023

Dates between which decision will be taken	Earliest date: 1 February 2023 Latest date: 31 March 2023
Cabinet Member	Cllr Philip Robinson Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Bus Transport
Key Decision	No
Purpose of Report	<p>Approval is sought to undertake the consultation and decision-making processes to enable the Council to consider a decision to implement a permanent extension to the age range for Ann Cam C of E Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 years.</p> <p>The proposed changes are to take effect on 1st April 2023 when it is anticipated the school will convert to an academy, following the receipt of an academy order. The extension of the age range will not take effect if the school does not become an academy.</p>
Recommendations	<p>To delegate authority to the Director of Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Bus Transport:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To publish a statutory notice on the proposal to permanently extend the age range of Ann Cam C of E Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 years with effect from 1st April 2023; and2. If no materially significant representations are received to the statutory consultation set out in Recommendation 1, to determine the proposal to permanently extend the age range for the school from 4-11 to 2-11 years with effect from 1st April 2023, subject to the Department for Education (DfE):<ul style="list-style-type: none">• issuing an academy order for the school; and• agreeing the date on which the school converts to academy status. <p>The decision to consider such representations shall be determined by the Cabinet Member if materially significant objections are received to the consultation exercises set out in Recommendation 1.</p>
Reasons for recommendations	<p>Following discussions with the Head Teacher and Governors, it was agreed with the request of the DfE to publish a statutory notice on extending the age range at Ann Cam C of E Primary School ('the School') from 4-11 to 2-11 years. This will allow the school to meet the requirements of converting to an Academy by ensuring that the Nursery can be transferred as part of the school.</p>

Resource Implications	No resource implications have been identified at this time other than Officer time and the cost of publicising details of the proposed changes in accordance with the statutory process. Officers will monitor this with colleagues in other teams to ensure that this remains the case.							
Background Documents	None.							
Statutory Authority	<p>Gloucestershire County Council's statutory duty under the Education Act 2011</p> <p>School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013</p> <p>Department for Education's Guidance: Making Significant Changes (Prescribed Alterations) to Maintained Schools Guidance</p>							
Divisional Councillor	Cllr Moseley							
Officer	<p>Any representations should be sent to:</p> <p>Name: Tracy Eales Tel. no: 01452 328677 Email: tracy.eales@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>By 5pm on 31 January 2023</p>							
Timeline	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Stage</th> <th>Timeline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Formal statutory consultation (publication of a statutory notice) on the extension to the age range of the school in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.</td> <td>January/February 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To take a decision about whether to extend the age range of the school subject to no materially significant objections being received at the formal consultation stage.</td> <td>March 2023</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Stage	Timeline	Formal statutory consultation (publication of a statutory notice) on the extension to the age range of the school in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.	January/February 2023	To take a decision about whether to extend the age range of the school subject to no materially significant objections being received at the formal consultation stage.	March 2023
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Background

1. In accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, changes to the age range of 1 year or more requires a statutory process of consultation, consideration of representations and decision by the Local Authority about whether to implement the change.

2. Ann Cam C of E Primary is a Voluntary Aided school in the process of converting to an academy. The school caters for children aged 4-11 and has a Nursery within the school grounds. However, pupils at the Nursery are not currently on the school roll. The Department for Education has approached the County Council requesting the Council to exercise its statutory powers to extend the age range of the school. If agreed, following consultation, this will enable the nursery to be integrated during the academy conversion process to avoid them remaining a separate entity from the school and enable the nursery to continue.
3. The proposal being presented here for decision under Recommendations 1 to 2 is to:
 - enable the statutory process of consultation to be undertaken to allow the Council to consider extending the school's age range; and
 - for a decision to be taken about whether to permanently extend the school's age range.
4. If the proposal to extend the school's age range proceeds following the statutory consultation process, 2–3-year-olds would then be on the school roll and will be included in the school census. Parents will still need to make a separate application to Gloucestershire County Council for a place in the Reception class.
5. The Nursery provision for the 2 and 3-year-olds is led by suitably qualified staff. Gloucestershire's Early Years and Childcare Service is supportive of this proposal. As there is no change in the physical premises, planning consent is not required and there will be no effect to the school's Published Admission Number for school aged children, nor any change to the school's net capacity.

Options

6. Should the DfE grant an Academy order, the conversion process will be completed by the DfE in parallel with the age range extension. If the order is not forthcoming, then the age range extension will not come into effect.

Risks

7. Regulation 7 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 confirms the Council must have regard to the Secretary of State for Education's guidance when making significant changes to maintained schools. The Guidance issued through the Making Significant Changes (Prescribed Alterations) to Maintained Schools Guidance ('the Guidance') outlines the process which must be followed when extending the age range of a school.
8. The guidance confirms that there is no statutory requirement to undertake a 'pre-publication' consultation period for prescribed alteration changes, although there is strong expectation that schools and LAs will consult with interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication. On this occasion the County Council has had regard to this guidance and considers that it is reasonable to depart from such guidance. This will enable the smooth transition of the school to academy status

in a timely manner to allow the nursery to be integrated within the school rather than remain a separate entity.

9. The County Council has consulted with the Department for Education regarding this approach and they have confirmed their support to proceed to undertake the formal statutory consultation period for the school. It will benefit the school, pupils and Governors to complete the statutory process as quickly as possible and enable it to convert to academy status.

Financial implications

10. No financial implications have been identified at this time other than Officer time and the cost of publicising details of the proposed change in accordance with the statutory process. Officers will monitor this with colleagues in other teams to ensure that this remains the case.

Climate change implications

11. There are no climate change implications of making this decision.

Equality implications

12. An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced. The proposal does not discriminate against any of the protected groups and actively seeks to improve outcomes for children.
13. The Cabinet Member should read and consider the Equality Impact Assessment in order to satisfy themselves as decision makers that due regard has been given.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications

14. There are no Data Protection considerations to note.

Social value implications

15. Supporting the work of the School, Governors and DfE to improve outcomes for the children at the school. They have identified that Academy conversion is the best option going forward and this process will support that.

Consultation feedback

16. The outcome of the formal consultation will be considered before making a decision to permanently alter the school's age range.

Officer recommendations

17. That the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Bus Transport approves the proposed delegation to the Director of Education to enable:

- a consultation exercise to be undertaken to permanently extend the age range at the school; and
- a decision to be taken about whether to extend the age range at the school.

Performance management/follow-up

18. The project will be kept under review by the Head(s) of Education Planning and Infrastructure.