



Towncourt Lane, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1EL

Tel: 01689 821716 E-mail: headteacher@Connect-jun.bromley.sch.uk

Consultation on change of age range to allow for pre-school places at Valley Primary Academy from September 2018

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to discuss proposed changes to the provision at Valley Primary Academy for pre-school children which requires a lowering of the school's age range by 2 years. The Governing Body of the Academy has decided that it should consult on the proposed changes in line with legal requirements, and wishes to receive the views and comments of all stakeholders in the Academy.

The consultation period will run for five weeks (four school weeks, plus the half-term break) from Monday 29th January 2018 to Sunday 4th March 2018. The Governing Body of the Academy will consider all comments received during the consultation period. We are consulting with all relevant stakeholders as required by law when making changes to school age range arrangements.

What change is being proposed?

Currently Valley Pre-school has 16 places in the morning and 16 places in the afternoon for children aged 3 – 5 years old. The pre-school is currently full and has a waiting list.

From September 2018 we are proposing lowering the age range of Valley Primary Academy to 3 years old. This will enable us to transfer the provision for 3 to 4 year olds to the primary school. This will make the school's age range 3-11 years, rather than the current 5-11 years.

Note that the proposed change to the Academy's lower age limit is classified as a "Fast Track" change by the Department for Education which means the Secretary of State will need to grant approval for the change.

Impact on the Admissions Policy to Valley Primary School

Please note that there is no change proposed to our determined admission arrangements. The school's determined admission arrangements for school entry to Reception remain unchanged and there is no change to the fact that a pre-school place does not in any way guarantee a place at the school, as is documented on our admissions policy on our web site.

Connect Schools Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Why is the school making this change?

The pre-school has recently been inspected by Ofsted, and was rated as “Outstanding” in all areas. We feel that by aligning the pre-school provision with the primary school, it will benefit from being able to work with the school to ensure children get the best possible access to quality early years education and bringing the leadership and accountability of the pre-school within the primary school management team. The pre-school will benefit from being able to adhere to policies and practices which can be set by the larger management team available to the school, leaving the pre-school team better able to dedicate themselves to the provision for the children.

Will the proposed change result in any educational impact on the existing primary school provision?

We have conducted a thorough assessment of the resources needed and effects on the existing primary school provision and we do not see that there will be any adverse impact on any existing level of provision. The pre-school will continue to operate in its current separate building in the school playground, and staffing will remain unchanged. There will be no change to the total cohort of the school.

Will the proposed change result in additional traffic near the school at drop off and pick up times?

The pre-school sessions will remain unchanged, beginning at 9.00 and finishing at 12.00 with the afternoon session running from 1.15 to 3:45, so there should be no impact on traffic around the school.

What will the impact be of providers of pre-school provision locally?

The pre-school offers 15 hours free funding, and this will not change. The proposal is therefore unlikely to impact on other providers.

How can you ask questions, get more information & comment on the proposal?

If you have any questions, please contact the Trust on the number above or by email to admin@valley.bromley.sch.uk. If you wish to make a response to this consultation, then please email the Trust on the same email address or alternatively write to the Trust at the address provided above. We will be allowing 5 weeks for receiving responses, so all responses must be received by midnight on Sunday 4th March 2018 to be considered by the Governing Body when making its decision.

Connect Schools Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment