



**Complete proposal to
amend the age range at Grantham Belton
Lane Community Primary School**

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 19 OF THE EDUCATION AND
INSPECTIONS ACT 2006 PROPOSALS TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION
TO A SCHOOL

4 May 2012

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the amendment of the age range at Grantham Belton Lane Community Primary School, Green Lane, Grantham NG31 9PP.

Implementation

The proposal is to amend the age range from 3–11 years to 4–11 years at Grantham Belton Lane Community Primary School with effect from 31 August 2012. Consequently there will be no Local Authority (LA) designated nursery class at the school.

Objections and Comments

Any person or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Provision Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk to be received by the deadline of 15 June 2012

Alteration description

The proposal under consideration is to amend the age range from 3–11 years to 4–11 years at Grantham Belton Lane Community Primary School with effect from 31 August 2012.

School Capacity and Site

The proposal will not have any impact on the net capacity, the numbers on roll or the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school as these all refer to statutory school age ie the primary school years of Reception to Year 6. There will be no changes to the school site arising out of this proposal and space on the site will continue to be made available under lease to a voluntary pre-school private provider.

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to amend the age range from 3–11 years to 4–11 years at Grantham Belton Lane Community Primary School with effect from 31 August 2012 and the objective is to ensure that there are sufficient early years places in Grantham to meet the current and future need so enabling the LA to fulfil its statutory duty of maintaining a sufficiency of early years places in Lincolnshire. The LA works with the maintained sector and also the private, voluntary and independent providers to fulfil this duty.

The designated nursery class at the school closed temporarily in September 2011 as it was unsustainable at that time and it was agreed that this would be reviewed after a period of two years. Also, under statutory guidelines a prescribed alteration, such as this amendment to age range, can only be in force for a maximum of two years as a temporary measure before formal proposals are consulted on. The LA must therefore either re-open the nursery or commence consultation on the proposal to

amend the age range to avoid being in breach of statutory guidance. However, if the consultation does not continue and the nursery class re-opens there would be a surplus of early years places in Grantham which would not represent best use of the Council's budget. Also, it is likely that no children, or only a very small number, would attend the nursery class. This would not be in the best interests of these children and might also present difficulties to the sustainability of other early years providers in the area. Analysis of the sufficiency data shows that there is not the requirement for the school to have a designated nursery class in addition to the provision which is available on site and elsewhere in the locality. Also, the school is not in a position to be able to financially sustain nursery provision without causing an adverse impact on the school as a whole. This proposal will lead to the removal of the nursery class at the school but there will continue to be sufficient early years places in the area to ensure adequate provision and choice for parents in Grantham. The proposal will not affect the existing voluntary child care provider, The Pre-school Learning Alliance, which will continue to operate from the school site as it does now.

The LA believes this proposal to be in the best interests of local children and local parents. The proposal will ensure that the provision of early years places is planned to maintain sufficiency and enhance both the quality and sustainability of local provision.

The publication of the Statutory Notice will enable the statutory and legal processes to proceed. This continuation to the next stage of the process will allow a further opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the Executive.

Consultation

In order for the age range at the school to be amended the LA must follow the necessary statutory legal processes as required by the Secretary of State in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 and updated by the Education Act 2011 together with the guidance of the Department for Education (DfE) regarding making changes to mainstream schools. Under current legislation the LA is the decision maker for the proposal.

Consultation originally began on 3 February 2012 with a letter, incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal, being sent to all parents of pupils attending the school informing them of the proposal. Interested parties were also informed as required by guidelines issued by the DfE. (See attached Appendix A – List of Interested parties)

All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 23 March 2012. Copies of the letter commencing consultation and the response form were also published on the County Council website under the webpage Current Consultations on www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning

An analysis of the written responses to the consultation is detailed in Appendix B but to briefly summarise there were 5 valid responses in total with 2 supporting the proposal, 1 against the proposal and 2 expressing views neither in favour nor

against the proposal. Only 1 of these responses was from a parent and was against the proposal.

Evidence of the consultation before the proposal was published -

- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted can be found in Appendix A
- (b) the views of the persons consulted are summarised in Appendix B
- (c) a copy of the letter confirming the commencement of the consultation process and incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal is in Appendix C
- (e) a copy of the form to send in responses is in Appendix D.

Following the initial letter all documentation relating to the consultation was published online through the County Council website under “Current Consultations” at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal were complied with.

Project Costs

There will be no costs incurred should this proposal be implemented. However, if the proposal does go ahead it is likely to secure a more efficient use of the Dedicated Schools Grant and improved value for money representing best use of the Council’s budget.

Age Range and Early Years Provision

The age range for the school is currently 3–11 years which comprises nursery provision as well as the primary phase of Reception to Year 6. Under the proposal the age range will be amended to 4–11 years ie primary provision only and no nursery class. However, there have been no nursery pupils at the school for the last two years.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision

Although the designated LA nursery class will be removed from the school there will be no impact on SEN provision at the primary school.

Related Proposals

The proposal to amend the age range from 3–11 years to 4–11 years at Grantham Belton Lane Community Primary School is not related to any other statutory proposal.

What will happen now?

Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by sending them to Provision Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 1YQ or by emailing provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk

At the close of the 6 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 15 June 2012 responses will be collated and analysed and a final report will be presented to the Executive Councillor in July for a decision on the amendment of the age range. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the decision maker.