



To Staff, Parents/Carers and other interested parties

28 January 2013

Dear Consultee

Related proposals to amend the age range of The Isaac Newton Primary School in Grantham and to expand the capacity to take additional primary age children.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), in collaboration with the school, is today commencing consultation on the above proposals concerning The Isaac Newton Primary School, Dysart Road, Grantham NG31 7DG. The first proposal is to amend the age range from 3 – 11 years to 4 – 11 years with an implementation date of 1st September 2013. The second related proposal is to permanently expand the capacity from 315 places (intake of 45) to 420 places (intake of 60) with an implementation date of 1st September 2014.

It is the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duty to maintain both a sufficient number of early years places in Lincolnshire and also sufficient school places to accommodate all pupils of statutory school age in Lincolnshire. The LA works with the maintained sector and also private, voluntary and independent providers to ensure sufficient early years places. Currently there is an over-sufficiency of pre-school provision for 3 year olds in Grantham. The nursery provision of The Isaac Newton Primary School has been temporarily closed since September 2012. The school and the LA believe that the provision of LA maintained nursery class is no longer necessary at The Isaac Newton Primary School. There will continue to be sufficient early years places in the area to ensure adequate provision and choice for parents in Grantham. Following statutory consultation, if the proposal is approved, the age range will be amended with effect from 1st September 2013.

With regard to the expansion of capacity at the school, the proposal being consulted on is to permanently expand from the existing capacity of 315 places based on a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45 to 420 places (PAN 60), with a proposed implementation date of 1st September 2014. This would increase the PAN initially for the Reception intake in September 2014 with the PAN for all other years remaining at 45. The increased intake to 60 would then be phased in with each subsequent Reception intake commencing in September 2015 until the PAN of 60 applies to all year groups. This phased approach will allow the school to effectively manage staffing and teaching structures and help to ensure that pupil numbers at other local schools will be maintained. The LA believes that this proposal is the best available option to address the expected shortage of Primary Reception school places in Grantham to ensure that local children are able to go to their local school.

It is important that the LA gather and consider all views on these two related proposals prior to making a decision on how to proceed. The proposal to expand capacity at the school would be conditional on the approval of the proposal to amend the age range with the accommodation previously occupied by the nursery being used for the expansion to the school. The 'Mums and Tots' group will continue to operate at the school.

The following information outlines the reasons for the proposals and explains how they can benefit the children and the community.

Reasons for the Proposals

There is an over-sufficiency of pre-school provision for 3 year olds in Grantham and the LA believes that the provision of a LA maintained nursery class is no longer necessary at The Isaac Newton

Primary School. There will continue to be sufficient early years places in the area to ensure adequate provision and choice for parents in Grantham.

However, national birth rates, mostly concentrated in more urban areas, have been steadily rising in recent years. Additional pre-school provision has become available in the town, but the increased birth rate, combined in some areas with inward migration and housing development, is now starting to have an impact at primary school resulting in a shortage of Reception places. Grantham will experience a shortage of available places if capacity is not increased.

Population data (NHS GP Registrations, supported by the Office of National Statistics) shows that there is expected to be a long term requirement for more places for children of a statutory school age in this part of Grantham. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting 4 year old children to alternative schools outside of their local community.

Having additional classes and more children of statutory school age on roll at the school will also have financial benefits for the school. This may potentially provide the opportunity to enhance teaching provision and career opportunities for staff which in turn will benefit the learning experience of the children.

Following statutory consultation, if the related proposals are approved, it is proposed that building/refurbishment work utilising the former nursery area to provide appropriate accommodation will begin during the academic year 2013/14 (subject to planning permission being granted) and planned to be completed in readiness for the start of term in September 2014. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making the best use of school holidays where possible.

Please note that the planning application process is dealt with and consulted on separately and there will be opportunity for those that are interested to be involved throughout this process.

Have your say

If you wish to comment on this proposal then please return the response form by 5.00pm on Monday 18th March 2013 using the contact details provided. If you would like to discuss these proposals further before responding, then LA officers will be holding 20 minute pre-booked appointments at the school on Thursday 14th February between 8.30am and 5.30pm. Please contact Jane Kirkup, School Administrator, on 01476 568616 to arrange an appointment.

If you have any queries regarding the proposals or the consultation process please do not hesitate to contact the Property and Technology Management team (details below).

If you would like to comment on the proposals then please return the attached form, email provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk or write to Property & Technology Management, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ by 5.00pm on 18th March 2013.

Copies of all documents related to this proposal, including an electronic version of the feedback form, can be found online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning under "Current Consultations". Hard copies are also available on request.

Yours sincerely



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Property and Technology Management