

Public consultation – Spring 2022

Proposed Change of Age Range at Chawson First School

The four-week representation period commences on Monday 28th March 2023 and closes at **noon on Monday 25 April 2022**. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to this proposal do so within this timeframe to allow their comments to be considered by the decision maker.

Responses can be made on-line via the following link: [Submit a response](#)

Should you require a paper copy of this survey, please contact
spp@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Introduction

Worcestershire County Council in agreement with the Governing Body of the school is proposing to change the age range of Chawson First School from 5-9 to 3-9 to incorporate the Governor led nursery within the status of the school. The proposal has met the criteria for a significant change and therefore public notice of this proposed change must be issued. This document helps to explain the background to the proposal and the final steps of this process.

- What is proposed
- Why it is being proposed
- Details of how the decision will be made
- How to submit a response

School details

Address	Chawson First School, Wych Road, Droitwich, WR9 8BW
Status	Community School
Ofsted Rating	Good (February 2019)
Current age range	5 to 9
Proposed age-range	3 to 9

Background information

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to secure, as far as is reasonably possible, early years education provision that is of good quality, accessible, flexible, inclusive and provided through a range of settings to meet parental demand for childcare for children aged two, three and four.

Since the 2006 Childcare Act, families with three-and four-year-old children in England are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, beginning in the term after their third birthday and until the child reaches compulsory school age. This universal offer was introduced to support child development and school readiness. In 2013 this offer was extended to eligible families from the term following the child's second birthday. These families are principally from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Maintained Community schools can operate nursery provision for children two to four years of age through two primary routes. The first is as part of the maintained offer. In these cases, the children are classed as 'pupils' of the school and included on the school census. The Governing Body also have the power to establish a 'Governor-Led' provision under their community powers (Section 27 of Education Act 2002). In this case, the children are not pupils of the school and are instead included on the Early Years Census. In both cases, schools must ensure the

provision and the environment is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the children and EYFS Framework and is inspected as part of the main school inspection.

Chawson First School currently offers early education places for three- and four-year olds under the second scenario, under the Governor Powers of the schools. Worcestershire County Council in agreement with the Governing Body of the school is proposing to make a significant change to Chawson First School under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) regulations 2013. This statutory proposal document contains all the relevant information to allow interested parties to decide whether to support the proposed change. Worcestershire County Council must follow a statutory process for making prescribed alterations to schools. The publication of this statutory proposal and notices forms part of that process.

What is proposed

The Governors and school leadership feel that the time is right to consider the incorporation of the provision for three-year-olds into the maintained offer. In order to do so, the Local Authority must lower the age range of Chawson First School by two years; from 5-9 to 3-9 from 1st September 2022.

The school has undertaken an informal consultation from 5th January 2022 to 11th February 2022. In total the school received 10 responses: 80% were in favour of the change of age range; 10% were against; 10% did not answer this question directly. The Governing Body of Chawson First School and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for education considered these responses and it was agreed to progress this proposal to formal consultation. A summary of the decision can be viewed [here](#).

If approved, the change would take effect from September 2022.

Why is it being proposed

Changing the age range of the school and operating three-year-old provision as part of the maintained school will have a number of benefits:

- Ensuring the protection of three-year-old provision. By incorporating this provision into the age range of the school creates permanency for this service and will ensure stakeholders are informed and consulted on any proposed change to the provision in the future.
- Securing consistent, quality staffing for our teacher-led pre-school.
- Children attending the three-year-old provision can be fully integrated into the school community. Registration of all children will be consistent, as will tracking of attendance and attainment.
- The school offers a fully inclusive environment, linking with Health and Social Care professionals, which allows the school to identify early concerns and address barriers which are preventing swift progress whilst developing excellent relationships with families. The introduction of children into this journey from three will further this programme and support the school to continue to improve outcomes for children and support vulnerable families.

How the decision will be made

The four-week representation period commences on Monday 28th March 2022 and closes at noon on Monday 25th April 2022. A Public Notice has been issued in the local newspaper, as well as around the school and in the local area.

The following stakeholders will also be directly notified:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the school
- Staff and Governors of the school
- Neighbouring schools
- Local, District and County Councillors
- Immediate neighbours
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Children and Families
- Any other known local stakeholders

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Local Authority will consider all responses to this Public Notice. Any objections to the proposal will be considered by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education before a final decision is made as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

How to submit a response

Responses can be made on-line via the following link and must be received by **noon on Monday 25 April 2022**.

[Submit a response](#)

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