

Derbyshire County Council

Litton Church of England Primary School

Consultation on a Proposal by the Governing Body for the Extension of the Age Range of the School from 4-11 years to 3-11 years

Introduction

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of Litton Church of England Primary School proposes to make a prescribed alteration, namely altering the lower age limit of school from 4 years to 3 years so as to add Forest School Nursery provision with effect from 1st September 2025.

Context

Litton Church of England Primary School is an established, successful community primary school with an age range of 4-11 years which serves the local community of which it is proud to be part of. Current provision within school enables children to attend an Early Years Foundation Stage 2 (Reception Class known as Red Group) setting followed by a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The school does not currently provide any nursery or pre-school provision.

Proposal

The school is proposing to alter the lower age limit of the school from 4 years to 3 years by extending the provision to include both Foundation Stage 1 and Foundation Stage 2 children (from the age of 3 instead of 4). The school is proposing to install a dedicated purpose-built classroom with minimal disruption to existing provision.

This means that, if the proposal is implemented, the school will be able to offer families a seamless and comprehensive education programme for children from the age of 3 years.

The school anticipates that, working with the existing school grounds by adding an additional new wooden cladded classroom and staff, the school will initially be able to offer 18 hours with the view that in the future, the school will offer the full government entitlement of 30 hours of free early years education and the option of allowing additional fee paid hours to suit individual family circumstances and preferences.

If the proposal is implemented, it is anticipated that the school will be able to accommodate 18 Foundation Stage children in total – inclusive of the PAN number of 8. The number will fluctuate yearly in line with places taken for school age children within the setting.

Staff

If the proposal is implemented, the school will utilise the existing and new highly qualified staff. The Forest School Nursery (Foundation 1) will be overseen by Foundation Stage Lead / fully qualified senior teacher, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and a Teaching and Learning Support Assistant. The school will ensure that the correct ratios of 1:13 are always implemented. The school expects there to be 6 Foundation Stage 2 pupils and up to 10 Foundation Stage 1 Pupils in the school at the start of the 2025-2026 academic year.

Funding

We have consulted with School Support Finance who have modelled the anticipated funding and built it into our budget monitoring spreadsheet for us. They recognise that this is a more sustainable financial model for us.

Consultation

The consultation on this proposal will be for four weeks from Friday 16th May 2025 up to Friday 13th June 2025.

A meeting will be arranged with all interested parties to explain the proposal and respond to questions. This will take place at 9.00am / 3.00pm on Tuesday 10th June at Litton Church of England Primary School. Please contact Caroline Hicks at headteacher@litton.derbyshire.sch.uk by Friday 6th June if you would like to attend.

This consultation document will be available on request from the Clerk to the Governing Body at the address and e-mail address below, and is available on the school's website. Any comments, observations or objections should be sent to –

Name: Mrs Jenny Bagguley (Clerk to the Governors)
School Address: Litton Church of England Primary School, Litton, Buxton, Derbyshire S18 8ZU

Or by e-mail to: ctg@litton.derbyshire.sch.uk

The deadline for receiving responses to this consultation is Friday 13th June 2025 at 3.00pm.