

12 February 2010

Your ref:

Our ref: sopt/mjt/Dean Barwick

Enq to: Mike Tuer

Direct line: 01228 226038

E-mail: mike.tuer@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

DEAN BARWICK VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL – POSSIBLE NURSERY PROVISION

The Governing Body of Dean Barwick Primary School would like to provide maintained nursery education at the school. The purpose of this letter is to invite comments on this possibility.

In order to formally establish a nursery it would be necessary for the Governors to publish a formal proposal to change the age range for which the school can cater from 4-11 to 3-11.

If statutory proposals are published they will state an implementation date of September 2010. It is anticipated that the proposed nursery class would initially operate one session each day (Monday to Friday) and those sessions will be three hours duration each. It is proposed that these sessions will be from 9.00am to 12.00 noon, Monday to Friday, during term time.

The facility will replace the Extended Services childcare provision that is currently in place at the school. As a decision on a change of age range will not be made until after the date for applications for nursery provision, if your child is attending or obtains a place to start at the current nursery provision at Dean Barwick School from September 2010 then he or she will be guaranteed a place in the proposed new facility. There is no other registered nursery provision (other than childminders) within the catchment area for Dean Barwick School.

Dean Barwick has already fully embraced the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and all requirements have been followed. So, in practice, the children currently attending will see no difference to their provision. Nursery children will continue to be incorporated fully into the school. There is a designated soft surfaced playground, with appropriate toys, sandpit, etc. Full use will be made of the extensive outside areas.

Providing for 3 and 4 year old children under the governance of the school will simplify funding arrangements and bring the funding of the existing nursery under the main school budget.

It is not anticipated that the opening times will be changed. It has been found that parents who use the existing facility often have other children at the school and it makes more sense to operate at a time which will suit them, i.e. the parent only needs to make one trip

per day to drop off their children. Indeed, parents using the current facility have indicated that this arrangement is the most suited to them.

It is not intended, as an integral part of this proposal, to offer care other than during the standard education nursery sessions. Were the change of age range to be approved, the pupils will be taught with reception age pupils. The children would follow the foundation stage of the National Curriculum. The maximum number of children who would be catered for during each session is likely to be 8.

The published number for admission to the reception group at the school is currently 8 (ie for entry in 2010/11). Were a proposal to be published following this consultation the statutory notice would confirm the admission number to be used in September 2010. It is not intended that any pupils who would wish to attend the school be precluded as a result of the establishment of a nursery.

Admission to the nursery would be in accordance with the Authority's 'nursery admission policy'. Admission to the nursery would not guarantee a place in the reception group of the school, which is governed by a separate policy. This is in line with national arrangements. Children will be allowed to attend the nursery facility from the start of the term following their third birthday in line with Authority guidelines. Nursery education is not a statutory requirement and parents can choose whether they wish to take up their entitlement to a free place.

If the proposal is approved transport will be provided for children aged 3 and 4 years old attending part time places at Dean Barwick School in line with the Authority's nursery transport policy.

If you would like further information on the suggested nursery or its implications for the organisation of the school, this can be obtained by contacting Mrs L Graves, Head Dean Barwick Primary School, Witherslack, Grange-over-Sands LA11 6RS (Tel. 015395 52298).

Your views on the possibility outlined in this letter would be very much welcomed. The deadline for comments is Monday 15 March 2010. These can be sent by completing the attached pro-forma or sending a letter to Freepost RRBS-RLBG-GZGL, Cumbria County Council, School Organisation Team, 18 Portland Square, Carlisle CA1 1PE or alternately online following the links on the County Council website www.cumbriacc.gov.uk.

The County Council will consider the responses to the consultation at the first opportunity after 15 March (in all probability at the Cabinet meeting on 30 March 2010) where it will determine whether or not to support the publication by the Governors of the legal notice that is required to bring about changes of age ranges in schools. If a notice is published the Cabinet will need to meet to consider any representations made and determine whether or not to implement it. As indicated above any change is likely to be from September 2010.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



MIKE TUER
School Organisation Project Officer.

How to respond:

Complete the reply slip overleaf and return it or send a letter by post to

Freepost RRBS-RLBG-GZGL,
Cumbria County Council,
School Organisation Team,
18 Portland Square,
Carlisle CA1 1PE

Or

Fill in the online version on the web pages at www.cumbriacc.gov.uk following the 'say it' link to consultation finder.

Or

By e-mail to school.organisation@cumbriacc.gov.uk

The deadline for responses is Monday 15 March 2010

SOT/DB/310

REPLY SLIP

Dean Barwick Community Primary School

Proposal for change of age range to establish maintained nursery provision.

Please tick:

I support the proposal []

I do not support the proposal []

Additional comments

Please indicate your interest in this proposal by ticking one of the boxes below. I am:

A parent of a pupil at Dean Barwick Primary School []

A parent of a child attending the existing nursery at Dean Barwick Primary School []

A member of staff at Dean Barwick Primary School []

A Governor at Dean Barwick Primary School []

A member of the local community []

Other (please indicate)..... []

Signed.....

Address.....

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.....Postcode.....

Date.....