

Change of Age Range Consultation - Irthington School

Introduction

Between 18th June and 30th July 2012 Cumbria County Council conducted a consultation exercise seeking the views of stakeholders and the local community on the possibility of a change of age range at Irthington Village School. The proposal would allow Irthington School to change from its current 4-11 age range to a 3-11 age range school.

Summary of Responses

A total of 47 people responded during the consultation period. 38 were in the form of completed questionnaires received by post, 7 were questionnaires completed online and 2 were submissions to the consultation sent by letter. Those responding included a school governing body, parish councils, councillors, the proprietor of local nursery and the headteacher of a local school. In addition there were also separate responses from the children of Irthington Village School (see attached summary).

Overall 96% (45) of respondents supported the proposal to change the age range of Irthington Village School and 4% (2) did not state a preference (one person replied via a letter not stating a preference, the other replied by way of questionnaire and did not tick a response box).

40% (19) of all respondents are parents. 17% (8) are prospective/nursery parents. 2% (1) of respondents are a school governing body, 13% (6) are governors, and 17% (8) are staff. 30% (14) of respondents were not parents, staff or governors. Figures may not add up to 100% as multiple categories were selectable.

54% (25) of respondents who stated an address were within the catchment area of the school (the others were mainly from Crosby on Eden CE, Fir Ends, Lees Hill CE and Warwick Bridge catchments).

Q1.

Do you support the proposal for change of age range to establish a maintained nursery provision?

45 respondents answered this question from the total of 47, and were all in favour of the proposal.

Q2

Additional Comments

18 respondents made additional comments including:-

| Comment | Frequency |
|--|------------------|
| It allows the transition from nursery to primary to be as smooth as possible | 5 |

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| Fantastic proposal- disappointed it has taken so long (pity it wasn't in place sooner). | 3 |
| I strongly agree/ fully support with this proposal. | 2 |
| The addition of nursery provision to Irthington Village School is very beneficial to the parents of young children in Irthington Parish. (No other nurseries in this parish/catchment area). | 2 |
| Will be great to have all children at the one school instead of travelling to drop Nursery children elsewhere. | 2 |
| Excellent Nursery. | 2 |
| Children learn from mixing with different ages. | 2 |
| A valued service. The need/demand is there. | 2 |
| The addition of the nursery will be an important factor in securing and maintaining the sustainability of the school. | 2 |
| The nursery has been working in an unofficial capacity over the last year. | 1 |
| This development would enhance the provision of education in the village and represents an important investment in our future. | 1 |
| I believe that the proposal offers a great opportunity to support the learning of individual children in a school which has a great Ofsted report | 1 |
| Allowing the nursery proposal will support engagement of children at an early stage and in an environment which they will then grow into and become an important part of in their formative years. | 1 |
| It will support local families with siblings already at the school, helping working families etc. | 1 |
| The teaching staff are fully committed to the proposal and determined to make it a success. | 1 |
| I don't think that the other childcare providers nearby will be negatively impacted by this, especially as there has been a steady increase in birth-rates recently. | 1 |
| Heard many positive comments about the Nursery. | 1 |
| I think the nursery is an asset to the school and the community. | 1 |
| Feel that application has suffered as a result of reorganisation of children's services. | 1 |
| Crosby Nursery has provided this service for years and will lose out with this proposal. | 1 |
| The trial period for the nursery has been a success. | 1 |
| Children prefer to come to our school nursery rather than travel to other nursery providers. | 1 |
| See no adverse impact on other nurseries, children already at school or traffic etc. | 1 |