

School Proposal on Change of Age Range

The Council's policy (approved by Cabinet 30th January 2020) on age range changes identified several factors that need to be considered before proposing a school change of age range. These conditions have been outlined below.

Where a school is seeking to make any other change in age range (other than in relation to sixth form provision) the Council will, subject to any overriding individual factors, support the proposal provided that:

- a. the school has a good or outstanding Ofsted judgement, or can demonstrate how the change would support improvement at the school;
- b. open and fair consultation has taken place with parents and other relevant stakeholders and the school can clearly demonstrate how any objections or issues raised will be managed;
- c. the school involved can demonstrate the capacity to manage any curriculum changes or has secured appropriate support to do so;
- d. the school involved can demonstrate that appropriate facilities, staff and systems will be in place, including how they will manage additional revenue costs;
- e. there is an agreed, clear and practical pathway for children to move on from each school affected by the change. The Consultation document should clearly inform parents all of their options for future school places for their children. Where a pathway school has not formally changed its admissions policy but has committed in writing to do so, this should be attached to the consultation document and it made clear to parents that this is subject to a formal consultation on admissions change by the pathway school;
- f. any reduction in Published Admission Number or change in admission criteria required has been consulted upon and agreed or a clear and transparent timetable for this change has been provided to stakeholders as part of the consultation process;
- g. there is no significant detrimental impact on other local schools. This criterion includes:
 - it does not undermine the quality of education provided by other good or outstanding schools in the area
 - it does not make another local school unviable and so reducing local parental preference
 - it does not result in the creation of additional places where there is already significant surplus capacity;
- h. the proposal is clear and precise on how the school will continue to work with other local schools to the educational benefit of all children;
- i. where the proposer is a small, rural school, as defined by the DfE rural schools' policy and WCC small schools' policy, the proposal makes it clear how the proposed change will support the school to stay viable and so support local need and parental preference;
- j. any proposals should support the best education for all children in the area. Proposers should be clear how their proposal will work alongside the existing school systems operating in the area;
- k. funding for any necessary accommodation changes has already been secured; and
- l. appropriate planning permission and any other consent required have been secured or a clear and transparent timetable for this change has been provided to stakeholders as part of the consultation process.