



**Consultation on the proposed change in age range at  
Sixpenny Handley First School  
'Improving outcomes for all'**



*In order to fulfil the requirements of the fast track application process, this consultation is running until Friday 25 June, 2021.*

# **Formal proposal consultation document for Sixpenny Handley First School to change its age range from September 2021 (2-9years)**

## **What is this consultation proposing?**

That Sixpenny Handley First School lowers its age range following the closure of Little Pennies Pre-School. This would therefore result in Sixpenny Handley First School becoming a 2-9-year-old setting.

## **Why are the school governors and the Heath Academy Trust proposing this?**

Following the closure of the pre-school, the school is well positioned to offer high quality nursery provision and wrap around care on the existing site. The five other schools in the Heath Academy Trust have established successful Early Years provision from two years and there is a high level of expertise to help support this transition. The governing committee of Sixpenny Handley First School is well established and they are committed to overseeing an outstanding educational experience for all children aged from 2 – 9 years.

A single management structure will enable the school's leadership team to focus more fully on children's learning experiences, transition through the early years setting and onto the National Curriculum with a clear aim to raise the achievement of all pupils. The accountability for the whole age range and all facilities on site would rest with the Headteacher and governance of the school, enabling greater coherence and less bureaucracy. The focus would be on ensuring consistency in the education of all pupils across the whole age range, based on shared understanding of each child's strengths and needs.

Following this consultation, if we decide to go ahead with the proposal, we plan to apply to lower our age range from September 2021.

## **Objectives of the proposal**

- To improve the academic performance of all pupils into Key Stage 2 by being wholly responsible and accountable for the learning, social, emotional and behavioural development.
- To provide a unique and innovative learning journey that will combine the best of Early Years Foundation Stage and primary school models for learning.
- To significantly improve the learning journey for pupils from 2 years to 9 years by ensuring the continuity of provision in Sixpenny Handley.
- To sustain high standards of education and maintain children's wellbeing by offering a secure transition from nursery to primary on one site.
- To extend the 2- year-old provision to full days, including wrap around care
- To provide affordable, quality childcare for local families in term time.

## **What will the benefits be?**

The trustees and governors at the first school believe that altering the age range could bring many benefits to the local community.

- Help to secure the future of nursery provision in Sixpenny Handley by extending the current offer of childcare for local parents
- Help to raise standards further
- Ensure timely access to specialist advisers and expertise where children are gifted, able and talented, or who have special educational needs, are vulnerable, or are in some way under performing.
- Meet the needs of parents in the local area who need to work

## **How this proposal will affect the children in the First school and the Pre-school**

The first important point to note is that the school intends to lower the age range in September so that parents will be able to access provision from 2 years in the locality. There will be a continuing commitment to the principles of good Early Years practice meeting the needs of our youngest children. Children and families entitlement to early year's provision will not be negatively affected by the changes.

## **Special Educational Needs**

Lowering the school age range will have a positive impact for all children with special educational needs and disabilities as well as vulnerable learners, which will build on the current good practice. This is because:

- Within the widened staff circle we will have expertise in early intervention, resources and teaching pedagogy to support children who experience barriers to their learning.
- We believe we can help support a child who has additional needs across their learning journey giving continuity across a longer time frame and allowing training of key professionals to have longer term benefits.
- We believe that transition from pre-school to school will be made easier for children with additional needs as they will be familiar with the learning environment, know staff and be familiar with key structures and routines.
- We believe that our widened professional knowledge of the children will enable us to provide the most effective and timely support for children with additional needs.

## **Extended services**

The proposal will give the opportunity for extended school provision reflecting the needs of the community and the aspirations of school leaders, including:

- Transition support for pupils, schools and families.
- Shared knowledge by experienced staff.
- Shared training for parents and staff.
- A commitment to wrap around care with breakfast club and after school club that fits the needs and aspirations of busy, working parents.
- Support for vulnerable families and pupils.
- Access to primary school facilities.

## **What will be the impact on admissions?**

Admission to any nursery provision is independent of the Admissions Code but should be fair and transparent. The governing committee will be responsible for setting any published criteria and ensuring the system is operated responsibly.

All children attending nursery provision at a school still have to apply through the normal admissions process to gain a reception place at that school.

## **Who sets the funding rate for governor-run exempt provision in maintained schools?**

Funding rates for all types of early year's providers are set locally by local authorities in conjunction with the Schools Forum, who may apply different funding criteria to different types of provider to reflect unavoidable costs.

## **Registration of early year's provision**

When Ofsted inspect the school they will inspect the age range 2-9 year at the same time and will include a separate judgement for the effectiveness of the early year's provision. There is no need to apply for a separate Ofsted registration, it is covered under the school's main registration.

## **The Process**

Proposal sent out to:

- Sixpenny Handley First School parents
- Little Pennies
- The Heath Academy Trust staff
- Dorset local Authority
- Local Schools
- Parish council
- Dorset Early Years Advisor team

## **How can I find out more?**

You can find out more by contacting the school office by email ([office@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk)) or by phoning 01725 552356 and speaking to the Headteacher (Mrs Rachael Musselwhite)

## **Procedure for responses: support, objections and comments**

The formal proposal document can be found on the school website [sixpennyhandley@dorset.sch.uk](http://sixpennyhandley@dorset.sch.uk)

If you wish to make any comments please do so by email via [office@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk) or in written format addressed to the Governing Body before the end of the consultation period.

We appreciate your time on this matter, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Rachael Musselwhite, Headteacher of Sixpenny Handley First School on 01725 552356.

### **Consultation response form**

Please tell us what your views are. If you prefer not to use this form, you can also put your views in a letter.

Letters and completed forms should be returned to Sixpenny Handley First School.

Alternatively, responses can be sent by email to:

[office@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk)

To be considered, all responses must be received by midday Friday 25 June, 2021.

. We encourage you to share your views and opinions either way to ensure we get a good picture of our community's thoughts and needs.

**Do you agree with the proposal to lower the school range to offer full-time Early Years provision for all learners from two years to nine years old at Sixpenny Handley First School?**

YES		NO	
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Please note any further comments in the box below.

