

Hazelmere Infant School and Nursery – Consultation

Dear Parents/Carers, Staff and Members of the Local Community of Hazelmere Infant and Nursery School.

The Governing Body of Hazelmere Infant School and Nursery are consulting on a proposal to raise their age of intake from 3 years to 4 years.

Why is the raise of age of intake being proposed?

Hazelmere currently run a 'maintained' nursery and the proposal is to change to a 'governor-led' nursery. To achieve this, the school need to raise their school age of intake from 3 years to 4 years of age.

What will be different?

The nursery will continue to be overseen and run by the current staff team, with the support of a named governor. No further changes are planned for the day to day running of the nursery. Although this decision will have no direct impact on families, by making this change, the setting should be more sustainable in the long term, thereby safeguarding the provision for future children and families.

An initial consultation was held with parents in February 2024. The following queries were raised, and responses given.

- **Will the change make a difference to support available for children with SEND?**

The proposed changes will still include support from the school SENCO as it makes sense for the school to understand and support the needs of our nursery children. This enables more successful transitions for children particularly as the majority of them will then go on to attend our school

- **What is the difference between "maintained" and "governor led" and what does this means for the Nursery in the future?**

When Reception numbers were low, the school were able to provide a high level of qualified teacher involvement across EYFS. This level of input is now proving very challenging as reception numbers have increased significantly. The school Leadership Team and The Governing Body have every confidence that the existing staff team are able to lead the nursery with less frequent support from a teacher and that the Governor Led model would allow them to run the nursery on the 1:8 ratio with a level 3 taking the lead role but continuing to access qualified teacher support.

Will there be changes to the staff team?

There are no changes expected to the existing staff team as a result of this proposal.

How can I make my views known?

We are very keen to hear your views and would welcome your input. The closing date for comments is Friday 5th July.

You can email your comments or queries to either:

m.hand@hazelmere-inf.essex.sch.uk

OR

diane.macefield@essex.gov.uk

Alternatively, Diane Macefield (Essex Early Years and Childcare's Children's Community Development Lead) will be in the school reception area between 8.30 - 9.30 am and again between 2.30 - 3.30pm on Friday 28th June and will be happy to answer your questions and discuss any queries you may have.