



SECTION 15 (1) OF THE EDUCATION AND INSPECTIONS ACT 2006

Proposal to close the Brambles Nursery School, Bramble Road, Southsea, Portsmouth P04 ODT and for Goldsmith Infant School to operate full day care provision.

Statutory proposal to close Brambles Nursery School (Maintained) and open Full Day Care at Goldsmith Infant School

Following discussions with the Governing Body of Brambles Nursery School and Goldsmith Infant School and after consideration of a range of options, a pre statutory consultation was undertaken to consider the following proposal.

The Proposal

The proposal is to close The Brambles Nursery School (Maintained) and for Goldsmith Infant School to operate Full Daycare comprising a 0 – 4 provision alongside the infant school. The Infant School and Nursery will provide 180 infant places and 148 FTE childcare places for 0 – 4 year olds. The Infant School and Nursery would therefore be the same size as the current organisation, maintaining one Governing Body and one Headteacher.

All the pupils attending the two existing schools will automatically transfer to the roll of the Infant School and Nursery, which would operate on the current site of the existing schools.

This means that the Brambles Nursery School would close on **31st March 2017**, and the combined Infant School and Nursery would open on the **1st April 2017**.

At the point of federation in September 2012 the Governing Body agreed that the new organization would seek a new name to fully reflect the joining together. The time is now right to put this in place. So, alongside the closing of the Nursery School (Maintained) the school are intending to rename as **Bramble Infant School and Nursery**. There is an historic precedent as well as geographic reason for choosing this name. Until 1966 Goldsmith Infant School was called Bramble Road Infant School and obviously the school is geographically placed on Bramble Road and like many other local schools the name would reflect the location.

Why close the Nursery School (Maintained) and open Full Daycare?

The Brambles Nursery School and Goldsmith Infant have 'formally' operated as a hard federation since September 2012 under one single governing body and one senior leadership team but with separate budgets and legal identities. The schools share one site and upon the completion of the current building project (Autumn 2016) will also share one building. The time is right for the schools to be officially formalised into one entity. Through this process we are proposing to dissolve the existing 'stand-alone' maintained nursery and create Full Daycare attached to the infant school.

The process will ensure the maximisation of the organisation's growth and sustainability; it will further bring the two schools together to deliver an enhanced and more cohesive service. This process will give a greater sense of unity to both children, parents, staff and the wider community.

Our Joint Vision ~ Better Together

In an ever-changing world our vision is to work with our community to develop our provision in a way that is flexible to meet its evolving needs:

- Working together to support children on their 0 – 7 journey and beyond
- Nurturing the growth and development of the whole child
- Ensuring excellent teaching and learning and truly effective interventions, removing all barriers to learning

With our children this means laying the foundations for them to:

- Become lifelong learners
- Develop the resilience, resources and reflectiveness they need to enable them to achieve the best they can
- Be confident and self-assured
- Be a good friend and have good friends
- Be aware of themselves; their values, strengths, feelings and choices
- Know they are valued
- Aspire to be themselves and discover the things that fulfil them
- See themselves as part of the community
- Understand how they affect others and are affected by them
- Take responsibility for themselves and their impact on others

With the parents and families of our children this means:

- Welcoming and valuing them
- Joining with them to support children to learn and develop
- Sharing the tools and information families need to enable their children to excel

Whilst both schools have already been working under a joint model of leadership and governance there are many reasons for taking this further step.

The Key Benefits of this Proposal will be:

- Enabling us to continue, consolidate and further develop the successes and benefits we have already seen from federating which include:
 - The benefits of cross phase leadership which have contributed to an upward trend in pupils' attainment and progress over the last few years.
 - The sharing of expertise from the infant school e.g. Early Years Teachers and the early identification of and support for pupils with additional educational needs.
 - The development of a rich curriculum that supports all children throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage.
 - Sharing one agreed vision and set of values to continue to drive up standards and promote continuity and progression of practice.
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- To continue to build upon the access pupils and their families have to both family learning and a developing range of Inclusion Services e.g. the support of our newly introduced Pastoral Support Manager.
- To make the whole organisation more sustainable for the future by:
 - Supporting the recruitment and retention of staff. Our 0-7 provision would give staff greater opportunities to work cross-phase and provide a rich environment for professional development
 - To enable the School Governing Body to make efficiencies in the running of the 'new' school, releasing more resources for staff and allowing more teaching and learning resources to be shared across the 'new' Infant School and Nursery.
 - The day to day operation of managing one budget will improve financial and all administration duties which will lead to reduced bureaucracy with one single budget instead of 3.
- Reducing the burden or duplicated inspection regimes:
 - There would be one financial audit instead of two
 - There would be two OFSTED inspections instead of the current three (Childcare, Nursery School and Infant School)
- The coming together of the two buildings by the Autumn of 2016 when the building work ends will give us a new school fit for purpose and provide new opportunities which we can make best use of in a completely joined up organisation. For example:
 - Supporting our developing offers to families in our new Community Room
 - Improved classroom spaces, corridors to ease circulation around both school buildings, one large shared staffroom, a larger reception/office space, community room, library and dedicated Early Years outside area.
- Currently, approximately 60% of children within the Nursery School apply for a school place at the Infant School. Whilst parents would still have to follow Local Authority admission procedures for the Infant School we would be able to continue our already excellent transition processes for both children and their parents. For a large majority of children there will be seamless provision on one site from 0 – 7 years old.
- The Headteacher, Nursery Manager and Governing Body have been leading both schools under the hard federation arrangements and would continue to lead and manage the 'new' Infant School and Full Daycare.

We believe therefore that there are significant benefits that this proposal will bring to the whole school community.

What will the new Organisation look like to Parents and Children?

In effect, apart from the new building, outwardly very little will seem to have changed for parents and children but a lot will have changed behind the scenes which will put us in a much better position to improve and grow together over time.

What Happens Next?

Council Officers consulted widely from **6th June to 1st July 2016** to hear and collect views. These were reported to Portsmouth City Council, Cabinet Member for Education, who decided at a Council Committee on 21st July 2016 (which was open to the public) to proceed to the next stage of consultation – this is the 'statutory' consultation and would involve the publication of a 'statutory' notice.

This notice will then be followed by a four-week period to allow comments or objections to be sent to Portsmouth City Council. At the end of this period, Portsmouth City Council will make a final decision.

How Can You Have Your Say?

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from the Portsmouth City Council website, www.portsmouth.gov.uk or from the Director of Children's Services at the address below or by telephoning Education School Organisation on 023 9284 1226.

Within four weeks from the date of publication (3rd September 2016) of this proposal, any person may object to, support or make comments on the proposal. This representation period ends on 3rd October

by email to: eandsc@portsmouthcc.gov.uk (please title your email Brambles Nursery Proposal)

or by post to: Janet Andrews,
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You can get this Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 9284 1717

