

Proposal to extend the age range of pupils at Red Gates School consultation outcomes report.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning and the School's Leadership Team with the outcomes from the consultation to extend the age range of pupils at Red Gates School.
- 1.2 Red Gates School is a primary special school for boys and girls aged 4 - 11 who have severe learning difficulties (SLD). The school is located at Farnborough Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 8HD. Red Gates School has been judged by Ofsted as a good school in all areas.
- 1.3 This report is based on the responses received during the consultation period following the publication of a statutory notice where anyone with an interest could comment on the proposal to extend the age range of pupils at Red Gates School.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 The proposal is to extend the age range of Red Gates School from 4 – 11 years to 2 – 11 years, from September 2019. This will involve transferring the management of the Willow Trees nursery class from Gilbert Scott Primary School to Red Gates School.
- 2.2 The proposed change will enable the school to provide specialist education for children with learning difficulties from 2 years old, supporting the Local Authority in meeting duties to provide an offer for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

3 Background

- 3.1 Local authorities are the admission authority for community special schools and can propose a change of age range by following the statutory consultation process.
- 3.2 Extension of the age range will enable Red Gates School to provide specialist education for children with learning difficulties from 2 years old and will allow the Council to continue to meet its statutory obligation to provide an offer for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.
- 3.3 The Willow Trees specialist nursery is currently located in Gilbert Scott Primary School. With the extension of the age range for Red Gates School the management of Willow Tree specialist nursery class will be transferred to Red Gates School.

- 3.4 The Schools' Leadership Team, including the Governing Body have agreed in principle to the proposed extension of the age range of pupils at Red Gates School.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 The statutory process for making prescribed alterations to schools has four stages: publication of statutory notice, four week representation (formal consultation); decision on the proposed change; and implementation of the proposed change, if agreed by the decision maker.

5 Publication/Representation

- 5.1 In accordance with statutory requirement, a statutory notice was published which started a four week consultation period – 01 November to 29 November 2018 – which invited anyone with an interest to comment on or object to the proposal to extend the age range of pupils at Red Gates School.

6 Communication and Consultation activities

- 6.1 A consultation document including a questionnaire was used as a basis of informing stakeholders, including parents/carers and local residents about the educational rationale and inviting feedback on the proposal.
- 6.2 Stakeholders were given the opportunity to express their views in writing via a questionnaire, both electronically and via the hard copy attached to the consultation document, by email and post.
- 6.3 A range of modes and methods of communication were used to inform and facilitate feedback from stakeholders regarding the proposal. Communication activities included the circulation of the consultation document, including a questionnaire via;
- The following websites:
 - ✓ Croydon Council
 - ✓ Red Gates School
 - ✓ Gilbert Scott Primary School
 - ✓ 'Get Involved'
 - Schools Bulletin:
 - ✓ Bulletin sent to all schools within Croydon
 - Social Media/Applications:
 - ✓ Twitter
 - ✓ Facebook
 - ✓ 'Your Croydon'
 - Printed documents/Statutory Notice:
 - ✓ Consultation document/questionnaire available from the council
 - ✓ Statutory Notice published in the Croydon Guardian newspaper
 - ✓ Statutory Notice displayed in Selsdon library.

Equality and Diversity Monitoring

- 6.4 As part of the consultation process, respondents were asked to complete an equality and diversity questionnaire, looking at Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Disability. The information collected will help identify any special requirements and promote equality and diversity.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.5 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken as part of the Education Estates Strategy cabinet report on the proposal to extend the age range of pupils at Red Gates School. The Equality analysis enables the Council to target its services and budgets more effectively as well as helping the Council to understand potential impacts on the community. The EQIA indicates that the proposed change will not negatively impact people with protected characteristics.

7 Summary of responses

- 7.1 All responses were received via questionnaire. Overall, a total of 24 completed questionnaires were received.
- 7.2 Of the 24 respondents;
- 17 support the proposed change
 - 4 do not support the proposed change
 - 2 were not sure
 - 1 was not affected/did not want to answer the questions
- 7.3 A detailed analysis of the responses can be found below in Annex A.

Key issues raised and the council's response

Key issue	Respondents' comments	Council's response
Potential negative impact on Red Gates School	"Whilst I support the proposed change... I am anxious that it will not have any negative impact on the school as it is at present; for example, the nursery draining funds from the main school. I would also like to know how the local authority proposes to support both Willow Tree and Red Gates to integrate successfully whilst remaining in separate buildings."	The respondent has raised two issues; the first relates to the funding of nursery places and the second about the integration and location of the nursery class into Red Gates School. 1: The funding of Red Gates School places and the nursery places will remain separate. The school places are funded on a base and top up

		<p>basis, with the latter dependent on actual pupils on roll; whilst the nursery is funded at an enhanced hourly rate based on the number of places commissioned.</p> <p>2: Red Gates School and the Council are keen to ensure that there is full integration between these provisions so that staff are supported and models of practice shared. The location of the nursery class is expected to be reviewed as part of this process.</p>
Potential negative impact on Gilbert Scott Primary School	<p>"I feel that Croydon Council has continually expanded Red Gates and this has adversely affected the existing primary school. Before Red Gates moved to its current site Gilbert Scott was a larger and more successful school. I believe the council will adversely affect my children's education if the expansion of Red Gates goes ahead."</p>	<p>Since the academisation of Gilbert Scott School the boundaries between the two schools have been formalised and will, by the end of April 2019, be divided by fencing. Arrangements about shared areas are set out in an agreement. As such there is no expectation that changes to Red Gates School will impact on Gilbert Scott Primary School.</p> <p>This proposal will not have an impact on the education of children at Gilbert Scott School.</p>
Level of care/Standard of education	<p>"The only [impact] will be if the level of care and education standard is compromised."</p>	<p>The Council intends that this change will enhance the education provision for children in Willow Trees nursery. Maintaining high standards of care for the children attending Willow Trees nursery is a priority for the Council.</p>

Logistics	“Are you increasing the classes? Where will they go?”	The intention is to maintain the same number of places at Willow Tree nursery, subject to review and needs analysis.
	“Who will lead the Nursery?”	Willow Trees Nursery will come under the leadership of Red Gates School. Staff currently employed will TUPE to Red Gates School.
Traffic and parking	“The School & transport infrastructure cannot cope...it's terrible with the amount of vehicles coming in & the parking is horrendous.”	<p>The change to the age range of Red Gates School should not lead to more transport and/or traffic, as the proposal is to maintain the existing number of places in Willow Tree nursery. By extending the age range of Red Gates School, such that Red Gates manages Willow Tree nursery the traffic should not increase.</p> <p>Whenever possible journey's to and from Red Gates School will be arranged so that transport is shared and traffic is minimised.</p>
	“The only concern I have is the amount of traffic that comes in and out of the school. I see staff from Gilbert Scott outside monitoring the drivers and the speed and care they take but not staff from Red Gates. This concern has been raised by parents from both schools as well as local residents but the council do not seem to enforce anything. At certain times of the day it is dangerous for pupils and	<p>Please see above.</p> <p>The issues raised about traffic and impact on local residents are important to the Council. Both schools should have a school travel plan, which address the health and safety of pupils and actions to mitigate associated risks.</p> <p>The schools are concerned to ensure that</p>

	parents of both schools and this needs to be addressed.”	arrangements for transporting children with special educational needs and disabilities to and from school do not negatively impact on the local area. There are not expected to be any changes to transport arrangements as a consequence of the proposed extended age range.
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Key points made in support of the proposed extension of the age range of pupils at Red Gates School

- 7.4 The points were raised in support of the proposal;
- “Better EYFS [Early Years Foundation Stage] provision.”
 - “Proposed expansion will enable Red Gates School to ensure high quality, effective provision for the 2-5yrs age range and where appropriate enable a smooth transition for the pupils in their next step. This development will also, where appropriate and wanted, offer support to parents at an earlier stage.”
 - “I believe there is a need for children as young as 2 with special [needs] to be supported further. Early intervention is necessary at such a young age.”
 - “I however believe children with special needs...should be given the opportunity to get help earlier than 4 years. It would also mean a lot for the parents.”

8 Next Steps

- 8.1 Based on the responses received during the consultation period, balanced against the Council’s duty to provide for children with special educational needs that is driving the extension to the age range of Red Gates School to include children from two years old, the Cabinet Committee will decide whether the proposal to extend the age range of Red Gates School’s pupils should be implemented in September 2019.

Annex A

A total number of 24 responses were received via completed questionnaires during the consultation period.

1) Please tell us whether you support/do not support the proposal to extend the age range of pupils at Red Gates School.

Response	Number	%
I support the proposed change	17	71
I do not support the proposed change	4	17
Not sure	2	8
I am not affected by/do not want to answer	1	4
Total	24	100

- Of the 17 respondents who support the proposed changes:
 - 4 are members of staff/Governing Body at Red Gates School
 - 1 is a member of staff/Governing Body at Gilbert Scott Primary School.
 - 2 are members of staff at a special school
 - 1 of which is a parent/carer of a child/children at Gilbert Scott Primary School.
 - 2 are local residents
 - 2 preferred not to say
 - 6 left the question unanswered
- Of the 4 respondents who do not support the proposed changes:
 - 1 is a member of staff/Governing Body at Gilbert Scott Primary School and a local resident
 - 1 is a parent/carer of a child/children at Gilbert Scott Primary School
 - 2 left the question unanswered
- Of the 2 respondents who were not sure of the proposed changes:
 - 1 preferred not to say
 - 1 left the question unanswered

Equality and Diversity

Please tell us who you are.

Please tick all that apply*

* 26 responses were received from 24 respondents.

Response	Number	%
Member of staff/Governing Body at Red Gates School	4	16
Member of staff/Governing Body at Gilbert Scott School	2	8
Member of staff within a special school	2	4
Member of staff/Governing Body within a mainstream school	0	0
Parent/carer of a child/children at Red Gates School	0	0

Parent/carer of child/children at Gilbert Scott	2	8
Parent/carer of a child/children at another special school/nursery	0	0
Parent/carer of a child/children at a mainstream school/nursery	0	0
Local resident	3	12
Prefer not to say	3	12
Other	0	0
No response	10	40
Total	26	100

Gender

Response	Number	%
Male	2	8
Female	11	46
Transgender	1	4
Prefer not to say	0	0
No response given	10	42
Total	24	100

Age

Response	Number	%
Under 16	0	0
16-18	1	4
19-25	0	0
26-34	0	0
35-44	5	22
45-54	2	8
55-64	1	4
65+	2	8
Prefer not to say	3	12
No response given	10	42
Total	24	100

Ethnicity

Response	Number	%
White British	7	30
White Irish	1	4
White European	0	0
Other white	0	0
Mixed white and black Caribbean	0	0
Mixed white and black African	0	0
Mixed white and Asian	0	0
Other mixed background	0	0

Asian or Asian British: Indian	0	0
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	0	0
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0	0
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	0	0
Other Asian or Asian British background	0	0
Black or Black British: Caribbean	0	0
Black or Black British: African	2	8
Other Black or Black British background	1	4
Arabic	0	0
Other	0	0
Prefer not to say	3	12
No response given	10	42
Total	24	100

Disability

Response	Number	%
Yes	2	8
No	11	46
Prefer not to say	1	4
No response given	10	42
Total	24	100

Please tick all that apply*

*3 responses received from 2 respondents

Response	Number	%
Mobility	0	0
Visual impairment	0	0
Hearing impairment	2	67
Mental Health	0	0
Learning difficulties	0	0
Prefer not to say	0	0
Other	1	33
No response given	0	0
Total	3	100