



Bapchild & Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr C Kelly

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20th October 2020

Proposal to lower the age range of Bapchild and Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from January 2021 to accommodate a school nursery which would formally be The Owl and Pussycat Pre-school.

The governing body of Bapchild and Tonge CE Primary School is consulting you on a proposal to lower the admissions age of Bapchild and Tonge CE Primary School to enable us to have a school nursery on our school site which would formally be The Owl and the Pussycat Pre-school. This proposal will ensure a consistent approach to learning for our youngest children and enable us to meet the needs of our local community in relation to Early Years education. The school has consulted with The Owl and Pussycat Pre-school Committee and its members, who were in favour of becoming part of the school. The school believes from the dialogue that it will provide families with the hours and provision that it needs, however we also understand the importance of consulting with the community and other stakeholders to ensure we are providing what is needed and wanted.

The proposed nursery and outside learning area would be situated in the current building of The Owl and Pussycat Pre-school and staff from the pre-school would be Tupe'd to become Bapchild and Tonge school staff.

We appreciate that many people will have questions regarding the proposal to lower the age range to allow a school nursery on site. Therefore, we have tried to answer the questions that we feel may arise. If you have any further questions please contact Mr Christian Kelly (Headteacher) headteacher@bapchild.kent.sch.uk or Mrs Jody Crayden-Brown (Chair of Governors) chair@bapchild.kent.sch.uk.

FAQ

How will the setting differ if it is run by the school?

The setting will be led by a school leadership team member with the current pre-school staff being employed. The resources currently used in school (including staff) will be used and available to the nursery setting including access to the school's SENCo, Music Teacher, Chaplain in Mission, school field and other resources to name but a few. Other back office functions such as website, IT, telephone, parent communication and assessments system will be integrated into the school systems. The children will benefit from a consistent approach from nursery through to the end of Year 6.

My child is not ready for school?

The children will be taught from the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) curriculum and be measured against the early learning goals. We do not envisage changing the curriculum or objectives. The teaching team role in the setting is to ensure that the early learning goals are met and the curriculum taught to a high standard for all children.

Who will be in charge?

The Nursery will be overseen by an Assistant Headteacher who will be part of the current team of early year practitioners. Day-to-day management will continue to be led by the Pre-School Manager. They will be supported by a strong school leadership team and Governing Body. The school will provide all HR services, line management and performance management system to the staff of the nursery as employees of the school.

When will the school-led nursery open?

This is dependent on when the current pre-school ceases and its assets transferred to the school. It is also dependent on when we are registered by Ofsted to extend the age range. The intention is that there would be no time when the site was closed to children and it is our intention to work very closely and collaboratively with the pre-school to achieve this.

How will the nursery be governed?

There will be experienced and consistent governance which will provide stability and long term viability to the future of high quality Early Years Education and care. The governance will be the same as the school. Governors are in post for at least 4 years.

What will happen to current pre-school staff?

Current pre-school staff will be Tupe'd over and become Bapchild and Tonge staff.

How would the change in provision affect the progress into school?

Progress into school should be quicker and easier for the children (and staff). Research has proven that school-led nurseries directly improve academic and social progress for children from 0 – 5.

Will there be any disruption to the children?

The children in the school and nursery should notice very little change. The building and assets will change ownership but operate in the similar way with regards to the children. It is our aim that the building and resources will be improved upon in time and therefore any changes the children do see will be of a positive nature.

Will this restrict parental choice?

Parents can apply as normal to the Nursery or any other pre-school provider in the area. There is no planned change to the school's admission policy or criteria. The nursery will be open from its current times but it is anticipated that it may be harmonised with school timings and sessions may be altered to meet the needs of the families. We hope we will also be able to offer Breakfast Club provision to 2 – 4 year olds also using our existing set-up.

Will the uniform change?

We may look into changing the colour of the jumpers to Bapchild green and arranging for a smaller size to be stocked in our current stockists but plan to supply jumpers to the current children free of charge.

Will there be more resources?

The school will resource the Nursery based on the requirements of the Early Years curriculum and the facilities that we give the children access to resources within the school. Funding for resources will come from the school budget. There will be full access to the resources, both human and physical, that the school has at its disposal. These include the Music Teachers, the hall, school ground and facilities, the dining service, the library, IT & Broadband services. There will be an investment by the school in any needed resources required for the Nursery to deliver the very best opportunities to the children.

Will any staff currently working in the school be working in the nursery?

The nursery will have access and input from the following staff:

Music teacher

Chaplain in Mission

Cleaner

Site Manager including landscaping

Speech and language therapists

I.T. support

EYFS leader and wider leadership team

Family Liaison Officer

The school is excited about the potential of working with Early Years practitioners from the Owl and Pussycat and vice versa.

What is the motivation behind the change?

The current Foundation classes are taught within the final part of the Early Years curriculum, which is seen as a separate key stage within the school. Extending the age range enables the school to teach the entire Early Years curriculum from 2 – 5 years (rather than just the last part). This means that, depending on the school's admission criteria, there is no break or change in provider at any point in this key stage. Therefore, most of the children will be part of the school from their first day in the nursery and should therefore mean that there would be significantly less adjustment anxieties when moving into the Foundation classes.

What will you do at lunchtimes?

The children will continue to eat their lunch in their current setting. However, our aspirations for the future are for the children to eat within our school hall at the table with other small groups of children within our 'House dining' setting and service.

What building will the children be in?

The children will be in the current pre-school building. There will be opportunities for the children to use the school facilities such as forest school area, library, field, play areas, school hall and to spend some time in the current Foundation classes for appropriate sessions throughout the year. The building will be maintained, updated and resourced in the same way as all other parts of the school site.

Consultation

Consultees are invited to consider the proposed lowering of age in their entirety and provide the School with their views or comments.

Consultees' Responses

During the consultation period, the School is actively seeking responses from a wide range of consultees in relation to the proposed lowering of age.

Responses on any aspect of the proposed lowering of age arrangements can be submitted by email to:

office@bapchild.kent.sch.uk

Or by post to:

Consultation
Bapchild and Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School
School Lane
Bapchild
Sittingbourne
ME9 9NL

The consultation period will close at 11:59 on Tuesday 17th November 2020, after which all responses received will be carefully considered by the Governing Body.