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## Mundford Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

St Leonard's Street, Mundford, Thetford, IP26 5ED

Tel: 01842 878278 Email: [office@mundford.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@mundford.norfolk.sch.uk) Web: [www.churchsidefederation.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.churchsidefederation.norfolk.sch.uk)

### **Mundford Pre-School Consultation ~ Frequently asked question and responses**

#### **Consultation ~ General**

##### **1. What is the proposal?**

*The Preschool Trustees have been actively considering the long term future for the Preschool and have consequently engaged in discussions with The Federated Governing Body and Trustees at Mundford Church of England Primary Academy to explore future opportunities to transfer the preschool into a new school based Nursery for children of 3 to 4 years of age.*

*Both the Trustees of Mundford Preschool and The Federated Governing Body and Trustees at Mundford Church of England Primary Academy believe the proposal will enable the continued provision and growth opportunities for pre-school facilities in Mundford and the surrounding community.*

##### **2. What does it mean the "Trustees have been considering the viability"?**

*Mundford Preschool Trustees have said;*

*"It is known that numerous preschools have closed over recent years due to the lack of trustees and increased costs. Unfortunately, these issues are also affecting Mundford Preschool.*

*Over the last 2 years the national living wage has increased by 14%, the cost of insurance by 27% and rent by 5.5%. However, the base rate for the Early Education funding has only increased by 5.8%.*

*As Mundford Preschool we are in a position that we cannot reduce costs and other than increasing fees and restricting the way parents use funded hours we have no way of increasing income.*

*Financially the preschool is not sustainable long-term, meaning it would have to close, so we need to ensure the village has an early year's provision for the future. "*

##### **3. What would the school early year's foundation stage (EYFS) nursery provision look like?**

*It is proposed that we would have a building on school grounds that could have two class rooms one to accommodate the Nursery and the other for the Reception class.*

*The LGB of Mundford CofE Primary Academy are also reviewing the viability of wrap around care and provision, offering breakfast and after school clubs as part of a support package to families attending Mundford CofE Primary Academy.*

#### **4. Would Mrs Tinkley have any involvement with the 3-4 yr. olds?**

*It is proposed that the Reception class would move into a new classroom within the new EFYS facility with an outdoor play area.*

*As EYFS lead and SENCO, Mrs Tinkley and other staff members could be involved at an earlier stage with pupils to provide any extra provision and educational support plans.*

#### **5. When and how would the move happen if approved?**

*As noted in the announcement the consultation for the proposed transfer will start on Monday 4th October 2021 and end on Friday 12th November 2021. DNEAT Trust Board will review the results of the consultation and should the proposal move forward an application to extend the age range of the school for 3 to 11 years of age would be made to the Regional Schools Commissioner's office.*

*Planning and construction works for the proposed new EYFS building in the Mundford CofE Primary Academy grounds will then need to be undertaken.*

*Taking into consideration the various elements of the process outlined, the timing for the proposed transfer could be estimated as the Summer Term 2022.*

#### **6. How can I learn more about this proposal and have my say?**

*Interested parties are invited to share their views by completing the online questionnaire via this link:*

*[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScivXUmzmv0ruUa1x9OT46HJMifZtX1KV93qW5BBx-31qKqkw/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScivXUmzmv0ruUa1x9OT46HJMifZtX1KV93qW5BBx-31qKqkw/viewform?usp=pp_url)*

*Responses to the questionnaire should be submitted via the link by 4.00pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021.*

#### **7. Have you considered the impact to loss of jobs?**

*TUPE protection exists for current staff members.*

*The Trustees of Mundford CofE Primary Academy hope they would be able to grow the number of children using the proposed EYFS facility and in doing so create additional jobs in the local community.*

#### **8. Who would make the final decision and what happens to preschool if we all decline the move?**

*The final outcome of the proposal, is the decision for the Trustees of Mundford Preschool Committee. The outcome of this decision would be supported by the Trustees of Mundford CofE Primary Academy and DNEAT.*

*If at the end of the consultation process, the proposal does not go forward, then the decision as to the future direction of the Mundford Preschool lies with Mundford Preschool Trustees.*

## **Child Places**

- 1. Are there more or less places for these 3-4 yr. olds and would children with siblings receive priority places?**

*Our plans are to provide sufficient places for all those children wishing to come to the new school based EYFS facility.*

- 2. Those who are not 3 years of age would they automatically get a place when they turn 3 or would they have to re-apply?**

*Mundford CofE Primary Academy plans to provide sufficient places for all those children wishing to come to the new school based EYFS facility.*

- 3. Would children automatically have a school place moving up from the Nursery to Reception or would they have to re-apply?**

*“Norfolk County Council, Admission to reception classes”*

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/admission-to-reception-classes>

*“... The admission round for entry to reception classes for the School Year 2022/23 opens on 27 September 2021 and closes on 15 January 2022...”*

*“...You will need to make an application for a reception class place, even if your child currently attends a nursery class at the same school...”*

- 4. Have you considered the impracticalities to working parents to have to find alternative childcare for their children under 3, where siblings already attend Mundford Primary?**

*The LGB of Mundford CofE Primary Academy have considered the working practicalities for families and reviewing the opportunity to offer “wrap around care” at the school.*

- 5. Would 2 year olds no longer attend preschool?**

*The proposed EYFS unit will not offer two-year old places, as it is a school based nursery and not a child care facility*

## **Funding and Sessions**

- 1. Would 3-year old funding, 15 and 30 hours per week sessions be accepted?**

*We are planning to continue the same current funding regimes.*

2. **Would hours be split into the various sessions as they are now or would the 3-4 yr. old children need to do full days within school hours?**

*We plan to continue similar sessions arrangements and by offering wrap around care provide further flexibility for families.*

## **Reception and Nursery Structure**

1. **The pre-school is one of, if not, the best locally. The staff work incredibly hard to ensure parents and children are happy, kept in the loop, nurtured and their days are filled with activities as well as child led play, how will the school be able to match the current outstanding level of care and commitment to our children and us as parents to feel confident in the care our child/children are receiving under the current pre-school provision?**

*We would continue to deliver top level education following the guidelines as set out in the Department for Education EYFS statutory framework ~ reference link;*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework-2>

2. **Would hot lunches be provided if the move was to happen?**

*Nursery children would have access to school meals and have the opportunity to participate in lunch arrangements with other pupils in the main school hall. This would also aid future transition for Nursery pupils into the main school environment.*

3. **Are parents expected to purchase uniform?**

*It is proposed for children in the EYFS facility to wear school uniform.*

4. **What communications will be in place e.g. Tapestry**

*It is proposed to use "Tapestry" as a communication platform as currently operated within the Academy.*

5. **Will the children still have the benefit of forest school?**

*The Preschool Trustees have advised the Forest School "has not been used on a regular basis since December 2019 when it was sadly vandalised".*

*Within Mundford CofE Primary Academy pupils currently have access to the school grounds and their outdoor learning areas.*

*The proposed EYFS unit would not be a pack away facility which would allow pupils continuous provision to an outdoor play area with curriculum and activities embedded into the EYFS statutory framework.*