



Photograph: Bryan Culliver - info@brianculliver.co.uk

Change to age range of Walderslade Primary School, Chatham

Public consultation document

September 2010

Change to age range of Walderslade Primary School, Chatham

This document is designed to:

- Notify you of Medway Council's proposal to change the age range of Walderslade Primary School, Chatham from the current 4-11 years, to 3-11 years, by the addition of Foundation Stage classes for three and four year olds
- Explain why these changes are being proposed
- Invite your comments on these proposals

Why is the age range of Walderslade Primary School being reviewed?

At present the age range for the school is 4-11 years. The school admits children into its reception year when they are at least four years old. This is part-way through the early years foundation stage –the first "Key Stage" of children's education.

Research evidence suggests that children benefit from a coherent and uninterrupted Foundation Stage, experiencing learning from the age of three years until the end of the reception year. Medway Council's policy is to support the establishment of schools for children aged 3 to 11 years where this is possible.

A new school building is currently being built. The design of the classrooms will allow for the creation of a purpose built Foundation Stage unit. This gives the school the opportunity to plan for continuity in children's primary education by providing the whole Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 of the national curriculum.

When would the new age range begin?

Medway Council is seeking to change the prescribed age range of the school to coincide with the opening of the new building in September 2011. However, to allow a smooth transition of children into the new buildings, the school are planning to commence the admission of 3 year-olds later in 2012.

It will not be compulsory for children to start school at three years of age. Compulsory schooling begins when a child is five years old. Attending at the age of 3 years will not give priority for places in the main primary school.

Foundation stage classes would be staffed by teachers and qualified early years practitioners. The classes and learning environment would be designed to meet the needs of young children, including indoor and outdoor areas.

How to make comments

We would like to hear your views on these proposals. Please let us know by:

- Completing the reply slip at the end of this leaflet
- Writing a letter to:
- Early Years & Childcare (Walderslade)
Medway Council
FREEPOST RRUY-ZBTJ-CZZC
Gun Wharf, Dock Road
CHATHAM ME4 4TR**

Alternatively hand the form or letter in at the School Office at Walderslade Primary School, who will forward it on your behalf.

Letters and slips must be received by **Friday 22 October 2010**.

Unfortunately it will not be possible to acknowledge receipt.

The next stages

Comments on this proposal will be presented to Medway Council's Cabinet on 9 November 2010. The Cabinet may decide not to proceed with the proposal, or to authorise statutory notices to be published, which will give anyone the opportunity to object or comment.

If there are no objections to the notice Medway Council can decide to go ahead with the proposal. If there are one or more objections, Medway Council as Schools Commissioner, under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, will determine the outcome.

Public consultation period	13 September – 22 October 2010
Report outcome of consultation to cabinet	9 November 2010
Statutory notice period	3 January 2011 – 14 February 2011
New designated age range to apply from	1 September 2011

No decisions will be made until the consultation has been completed and local views have been carefully considered.

