

**Consultation on our Proposal to  
Extend the Age Range of  
Hazeldene lower school  
to a primary school for students aged 4- 11 plus  
nursery from 2017**



**CONSULTATION ON OUR PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF**

# HAZELDENE LOWER SCHOOL, STANCLIFFE ROAD BEDFORD, MK419AT TO A 3-11 PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2017/2018

## Context

In June and July 2015, the three governing bodies for Newnham Middle, Castle Lower and Hazeldene Lower schools consulted extensively with parents, staff and other stakeholders on how these schools wish to work much more closely together to deliver high quality education for families in our community for children aged 4 -16 plus nursery.

Having received overwhelming support for this initiative, we are now moving forward. There are some formal procedures here that the schools need to follow. The first of these, the federation of Newnham and Castle schools, has been agreed and will be implemented in full in January 2016. Hazeldene Governing Body has agreed to work collaboratively with both the schools as part of a soft federation so that together the three schools deliver a high quality cohesive 4- 16 plus nursery education offer.

We now need to complete the formal procedure to extend the age range of Hazeldene to become a primary school.

## What does the change in age range mean?

There will be a phased approach to becoming a primary school and this will link into the changes proposed by Castle Lower and Newnham Middle Schools.

From 2017, children in year 4 will move into year 5 and then in 2018 the school will have the full primary age range, with the first cohort of year 6 children.

By September 2019 the school will have 7 year groups from year R to 6, age 4 to 11 plus our 24 place morning and afternoon Nursery Provision

The diagram below shows this:

Date	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
Sep 2015	60	60	60	60	60			300
Sep 2016	60	60	60	60	60			300
Sep 2017	60	60	60	60	60	60		360
Sep 2018	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420
Sep 2019	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420

## What is happening at Newnham Middle?

Newnham Middle School Governing Body are also consulting on increasing their age range to become a secondary school, starting in 2017. To join Castle- Newnham in the Secondary phase, parents at Castle and Hazeldene will need to apply for a place in year 7. Priority will be given to pupils who have attended schools in the Federation and this will be done as part of the transfer process run by the Local Authority in very much the same way as now when children move from lower schools to middle schools. The first year group to transfer to year 7 will be the current year 3 children

#### **4. Why change age range?**

In the summer we looked at this in detail. We explained the reasons through a joint open evening, drop in sessions for parents and in the Federation consultation document. In summary the reasons are:

- the increase in standards gained by reducing transition points and increased collaborative and coordinated working with Castle-Newnham and Hazeldene to deliver a cohesive 4 – 16 (plus Nursery) education model;
- Newnham’s capacity and desire to deliver high quality secondary education up to GCSE;
- the multiplicity of arrangements across the Borough which has created a system which is confusing for parents;
- dwindling numbers of middle schools nationally means it could become difficult to recruit because of limited career options for staff;
- transition part-way through key stages leads to difficulties with accountability for outcomes;
- teachers are no longer trained for the middle years and see themselves as either primary or secondary practitioners.

Bedford Borough Council are actively supporting schools looking at changing their age range. We welcome this and have fully engaged with them in developing our vision for 4 -16 plus nursery education.

#### **How will we change?**

##### **1. Accommodation**

The main school building currently accommodates 300 pupils plus our Nursery. A 120-place permanent building was added in 2015 to replace previous temporary classrooms. This is currently used for our care club, music lessons, group rooms and as a PPA resource room for teachers. We intend to build a further 2/3 classrooms this will ensure that the school has adequate classrooms with suitable furniture and resources to meet the needs of the 9 to 11 range.

##### **Curriculum**

The National Curriculum will be delivered across the full primary age range. All our teachers are fully trained and highly skilled in teaching the primary years. Our Senior Leadership team are currently visiting other Outstanding Primary settings to ensure that we will be fully prepared to teach years five and six. Development of existing teachers is underway and will be enhanced as federation develops. Through a combination of training, development and recruitment we are confident that we will be able to build upon the existing high levels of staff expertise and dedication to create an excellent team of primary staff.

We will also work very closely with Newnham Middle School colleagues to share good practice and ensure a smooth transition for all pupils.

In line with primary schools across the country we will deliver this broad and balanced National Curriculum without the need for specialist facilities but continuing as a school to deliver high quality teaching.

Although the use of specialist facilities is not necessary in order to deliver the full National Curriculum across the primary years, we will work with Castle-Newnham in order to access any specialist facilities as deemed appropriate.

We see federation as an exciting draw to attract the best teachers and support staff to work with us.

**Pastoral**

At Hazeldene we have a very good knowledge of individual pupils and families and their needs from a very early age, this has always been a strength of the school. By the time our pupils reach secondary age and are ready to transfer, both they and their families will have built strong relationships with the secondary leaders and staff at the Castle-Newnham School. Over an extended period of time this will be one of the real strengths of the federation and an all-through approach to schooling.

There are already highly productive links between all three schools ensuring the best possible provision and high expectations for SEND pupils and these will be built upon through regular meetings to discuss pedagogy and practice as well as the learning and progress of individual and groups of pupils as they progress through to their secondary education.

Hazeldene has an excellent record of promoting and improving good behaviour and care for others, this will then be continued as the children transfer to the Castle –Newnham School.

**2. How will school admissions be managed?**

Currently, our admissions are managed by the Local Authority (Bedford Borough). Places are allocated based on the admissions criteria, which take into account various factors such as catchment area, whether there are siblings at the school or whether the child is ‘looked after’.

We are proposing to change the admissions criteria for the school as below:

1.	All ‘looked after’ children or children who were previously ‘looked after’
2.	Pupils with siblings at the school
3.	Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school office to the pupil’s home address using the Local Authority’s computerised mapping system.

## **We will be including the following statement in our admission arrangements for 2017, in line with the Admissions Code of practice**

### **Admission Outside Normal Age Group**

In exceptional circumstances the Admissions Authority will consider agreeing to the admission of a child to a year group other than is applicable to their chronological age. This may be appropriate, for example, where premature birth has led to children falling into a year group other than would have been the case had they been carried to full term. Similarly, where decisions to allow out of age group education have been taken by previous schools it will normally be appropriate for children to remain with their established year group. Other circumstances will be considered on their merits and in all cases decisions will be taken in the best interests of the child.

All such requests should be made directly to the admissions authority at the time of application including any supporting evidence. If they are made as part of the coordinated admissions process the application form should also be completed and submitted to the local authority. If the request is approved the application will be processed in the normal way. Applications outside that process will be considered as casual admissions.

If a request is denied a place may be offered in the age-appropriate year group.

### **What are the arrangements for the consultation process?**

The purpose of the consultation is to seek views of pupils, parents and the wider community about the proposals being put forward. This will allow the Governing Body to make a fully informed decision as to whether to go ahead with the proposals outlined in this document. It also provides a time where you can ask questions about the proposals or make alternative suggestions.

You can take part and have your say in the following ways

- By completing the attached response form
- By phone - 01234300100
- By email - [office@hazeldeneschool.co.uk](mailto:office@hazeldeneschool.co.uk)
- By letter - Hazeldene School, Stancliffe Road, Bedford, MK41 9AT

The consultation will run from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 until 12 noon on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015. We are specifically consulting the following groups, and would encourage anyone interested to read through this proposal document and give us your views:

- Bedford Borough Council
- Parents of every registered pupil at the school
- Parents of potential pupils in our catchment area and in Early Years provision
- Staff who work at the school
- Our local communities and our current site users
- All other schools within Bedford Borough
- The Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposal

Once the consultation process is completed at the end of this term, the Governing Body of the school will meet in early January to consider the responses and to answer queries that have been raised about particular issues. It will then publish a Consultation Report on the school's website.

The Governing Body will then decide whether or not it proceeds with the proposal of raising the upper age-limit of the school from 9 years to 11 years, thus creating an all-through primary provision. This will mean that the school will take children from age 3 (Nursery ) to age 11 (Year 6).

Other schools in Bedford Borough are conducting similar consultations. For information about other schools please visit the Council's website.

Event	Timescale
<b>Consultation process</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 – noon 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
<b>Consultation drop-ins:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2015: School Hall during parents evening(parents)  12 <sup>th</sup> November 2015: Newnham School Hall 18.30-20.00 (parents and wider community)
<b>Analysis of responses and preparation of Consultation Report</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2015 – 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
<b>If the Governing Body decide to proceed, the decision, and the reasons for it, will be communicated within one week to those listed opposite and the decision and Consultation Report will be posted on the school's website</b>	January 2016  The Local Authority The parents of every registered Hazeldene pupil Anyone else who we deem appropriate
<b>Implementation</b>	The Governing Body will inform the Secretary of State of the decision by ensuring the DfE's Register of Educational Establishments (EduBase) is updated
<b>Final Implementation of Proposals</b>	1 September 2017

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE TO A SINGLE PHASE PRIMARY PROVISION 2017-2018**

Please take the time to read our Consultation document and complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us. Please email completed questionnaires to the school office or send by post to:  
Victoria Cromwell Chair of Governors, Hazeldene Lower School], Stancliffe Road, Bedford MK419AT

**All responses must be received by noon on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 please.**

**PROPOSAL**

**From September 2017, should Year 4 pupils remain at Hazeldene School and continue in the school until 11**

Yes	Don't know	No

**Comment** (please give the reasons for your answer if you wish)

1. Please tell us who you are.

We intend to analyse responses according to stakeholder group.

Please tick all the boxes that apply in the list below.

- Parent of a student(s) currently attending the school
- Member of the Governing Body at the school
- Member of staff who works at the school
- Parent of a child in local Early Years provision
- Governor, including Headteacher, at a neighbouring schools
- Member of the local community
- Representative of the Local Authority
- Representative of a Diocese
- Other (please specify) .....

2. We will respect any desire to remain anonymous (no one will be publicly identified in the report on the consultation) but if you are content for us to know your name (or names if this is a joint response), please enter it/them here: .....

3. If you would like us to send you a copy of the final consultation report, please provide an email address here: . .  
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