

Proposal to change the age range of Manor Wood Primary School from 2-11 years to 0-11 year

Date: 7 March 2023

Report of: The Sufficiency and Participation Team Lead

Report to: Director of Children and Families

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The Governing Body of Manor Wood Primary School has decided that the school should become an academy. This means that the school, including its governor-led 0-3 years pre-school provision and Children's Centre, and school nursery is due to become part of Owlcotes Multi-Academy Trust later this year.

As part of the process of the school becoming an academy, Leeds City Council is required to consult on a proposal to change the age range of the school so that it matches the current age range of the babies and children who attend the Early Years provision at the school.

Essentially, this age range change is needed so that the existing governor-led 0-3 years pre-school provision can continue to be provided by the school after the academy conversion has taken place.

Families accessing provision at Manor Wood Primary School would see no change to the existing services that are provided, which would continue as normal if the school's age range is changed as proposed.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Director of Children and Families:

- a) Approves the publication of a Statutory Notice on a proposal to change the age range of Manor Wood Primary School from 2-11 years to 0-11 year from June 2023
- b) Note that implementation of the proposal would be subject to the outcome of the proposed statutory notice
- c) Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems

What is this report about?

- 1 Under the Academies Act 2010, publicly funded schools in England may become academies. Schools may be converted into academies by an academy order made under s4 of the Act and on 13 October 2022 the Director of Children and Families received the academy order enabling Manor Wood Primary School to convert to an academy. The proposed conversion date is 1 June 2023 or such later date as advised by the DfE.
- 2 Manor Wood Primary School currently provides Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' governor-led pre-school provision for 0–3-year-olds within a densely populated area with high demand for Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) provision. However, the current governor-led arrangements cannot continue once the school becomes an academy due to legislative restrictions that prevent academies from having such arrangements in place.
- 3 To ensure the existing 0-3 years pre-school provision can continue to be provided by the school after the academy conversion has taken place, Leeds City Council is required to consult on a proposal to change the age range of the school so that it matches the current age range of the babies and children who attend the Early Years provision at the school.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 4 The school's Governing Body is already providing good quality pre-school provision for 0–3-year-olds at Manor Wood Primary School. This proposed age range change would ensure that this popular provision can continue to be provided by the school after the academy conversion has taken place.
- 5 If this proposed age range change was to be approved, there would be no material change to the existing Early Years provision at the school, and therefore, there would be no impact on those accessing Early Years provision at the school, or on other local schools and Early Years providers.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 Leeds City Council wants all children and young people in the city to have access to a wide range of opportunities, develop key life skills, and be supported on ambitious pathways to enable them to thrive, supporting the council's ambition to produce a strong economy and a compassionate city.
- 7 By ensuring good quality early years places can continue to be offered in an already established school, in an area where eligibility for places is high, this proposal will help safeguard the progress already made towards the achievement of the Child Friendly City aim of "improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes".
- 8 As part of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) to improve attendance, attainment and achievement, the linked Leeds 3 A's plan has a priority of 'all children, young people and families are supported to access and regularly attend early years education settings', which this proposal supports.
- 9 In addition, the 'Health and wellbeing' and 'Inclusive growth' pillars of our Best City Ambition reinforce the aim to improve lives of families who are most likely to experience poverty and to ensure that all children in all areas of the city have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy and friendly childhood. By ensuring the continuity of good early education opportunities, this

proposal also supports the understanding that place matters, contributing towards positive identities within communities.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Moortown

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 10 The process in respect of this proposal has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.
- 11 An informal consultation on the proposal took place between 20 February and 6 March 2023 to seek the views of parents, nearby schools, early years providers and other stakeholders. The school informed parents and carers of existing pupils in writing. Details about the consultation were sent via email to schools in the area and information was also shared via email with local ward members, MP's and other stakeholders. Information about the consultation was also available via Leeds City Council's website.
- 12 Just one response was received via email during the consultation period expressing some concern related to ongoing growth within the Early Years sector and the consequent increase in competition from providers for skilled staff, particularly from school-run nurseries. However, as there would be no material change to the existing Early Years provision offered by Manor Wood Primary School because of this proposal going ahead, there would be no subsequent impact to existing community access to the provision, or to other local schools and Early Years providers.

What are the resource implications?

- 13 As there would be no change to the existing services that are provided from Manor Wood Primary School, changing the age range of the school would not require any capital investment.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 14 To ensure the existing governor-led 0-3 years pre-school provision can continue to be provided by Manor Wood Primary School after the academy conversion has taken place, Leeds City Council is required to consult on a proposal to change the age range of the school so that it matches the current age range of the babies and children who attend the Early Years provision at the school.
- 15 A decision not to proceed could mean a lack of available places for children within an area of high demographic need and the authority's ability to meet its legislative requirement to secure sufficient early education places in the area would be at risk.

What are the legal implications?

- 16 The changes proposed form prescribed alterations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and are aligned with the statutory process set out in the Department for Education's guidance document, 'Making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools' (October 2018).
- 17 As a decision to implement this proposal would result in no material change to the existing Early Years provision at Manor Wood Primary School, there would be no subsequent change to access

of the provision by the community. As a result, this proposal does not qualify as a Key Decision or require Executive Board approval. Instead it must be dealt with as a Significant Operational Decision (SOD).

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

18 This proposal has been brought forward to allow the local authority to change the age range of Manor Wood Primary school in time to ensure the existing 0-3 years pre-school provision can continue to be provided by the school after it has converted to become an academy on 1 June 2023 or such later date as advised by the DfE.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening form.

Background papers

- None