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## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**SUBJECT: Proposal to change the lower age limit and close the LEA maintained nursery of Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1 This report informs the Executive Board of the responses to the statutory notice for the proposal to:
  - change the lower age limit of Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary from 3-11 years of age to 5-11 years of age
  - close the LEA Maintained nursery from 31st August 2009

and recommends the Executive Board approve the proposal.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 At its meeting in May 2009 the Governing Body of the Christ the King Catholic Primary School agreed that statutory notices be published for the proposals, following consultation earlier in the year.
- 3 The statutory notice was published on 21st May 2009 on the proposal to change the lower age limit of the school and close the LEA maintained nursery. The notice expired on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009. No objections were received to any part of the proposal.
- 4 Under the Education and Inspection Act 2006 the local authority has until 2nd September 2009 to make a final decision on the proposals. The Executive Board has chosen to set up the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) to consider school organisation proposals in the event of any objections. In the absence of any objections to these specific proposals they have not been convened, and the Executive Board are required to make a decision on the proposal.

#### RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5 There would be annual revenue saving of approximately £16,000 next year with the closure of the nursery at Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School, should this proposal proceed. This is based the reduction of staffing costs and

also the reduction of child funding. Based on current numbers on roll being the same in September the school would have a deficit of £16,000 in nursery.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7 Executive Board is asked to note that there were no objections to the statutory notice and approve proposal to:

- Change the lower age limit of Christ the King Catholic Primary School from 3-11 years of age to 5-11 years of age and close the LEA maintained nursery.

Agenda Item:

Originator: Darren Crawley

Telephone: 0113 2475765

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EXECUTIVE BOARD: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**SUBJECT: Proposal to change the lower age limit and close the LEA maintained nursery of Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School**

### Electoral Wards Affected:

**Bramley**

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

### Specific Implications For:

Equality & Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in

(Details contained in the Report)

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report informs the Executive Board of the responses to the statutory notice for the proposal to:

- change the lower age limit of Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary from 3-11 years of age to 5-11 years of age
- close the LEA Maintained nursery from 31st August 2009

and recommends the Executive Board approve the proposal.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 A public consultation on the proposal ran from 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009. At its subsequent meeting in May 2009 the Governing Body of the school agreed that statutory notices be published for the proposal.

2.2 Statutory notices were published on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009 for the proposal. A copy of the statutory notice is in Appendix 1. The notice period for this proposal expired on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009. No objections were received to any part of the proposal.

2.3 Under the Education and Inspection Act 2006 the local authority has until 2nd September 2009 to make a final decision on the proposals, otherwise the issue must be referred to the schools adjudicator. The Executive Board has chosen to set up the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) to consider school organisation proposals in the event of any objections. In the absence of any objections to these specific proposals, and in accordance with their terms of reference, they have not been convened, and the Executive Board are required to make a decision on the proposal. The decision maker is required to consider 4 key issues:

- Is there any information missing?
- Does the published notice comply with the statutory requirements?
- Has the public consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notice?
- Are the proposals 'related' to other published proposals and should be considered together?

### 3.0 THE MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 The school opened a maintained nursery 9 years ago providing free early years education for 3 and 4 year olds within the area of Bramley. The nursery was registered to take a maximum of 13 children during the morning and 13 children during the afternoon. However since opening, the nursery has only ever been full on 3 occasions and declining numbers on roll over the past 5 years are now impacting on the school budget as well as other year groups within the school.
- 3.2 The governing body of the school have never employed a full time teacher in their nursery. However, new legislation from September 2009 would now mean the school would have to employ a full time teacher within nursery class which again would seriously impact on the school budget due to the nursery intake being only 50% full.
- 3.3 The school have already created links with a local private nursery and children's centre who would be able to offer 15 hours of free provision per week for any existing and potential nursery aged children this proposal would affect. Both these would also help promote the school and would assist totally with any transition from nursery to reception.
- 3.4 The closure of the nursery would allow more flexibility in the budget to service the needs of every child in school. However, the governors are aware that the removal of the nursery could mean that numbers of children entering school at reception class could potentially fall. The governing body realise that the school will have to market itself better to ensure current numbers in reception are sustained, should the proposal be agreed.
- 3.5 The school is currently undergoing a major redevelopment to enhance the learning environment and benefit all the children. The governors also feel that the current nursery would need redeveloping to meet DCSF standard requirements at a cost of approximately £150,000.
- 3.6 The Governing Body of Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School is requesting an alteration to the lower age limit of pupils they provide services for. Currently the school delivers services for children aged 3 to 11. This will change to 5 to 11 years of age with the closure of the nursery.
- 3.7 No objections were received during the public consultation and no objections to

the statutory notice were received.

#### **4.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There would be annual revenue saving of approximately £16,000 next year with the closure of the nursery at Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School, should this proposal proceed. This is based the reduction of staffing costs and also the reduction of child funding. Based on current numbers on roll being the same in September the school would have a deficit of £16,000 in nursery.

4.3 Leeds City Council Executive Board will need to make a decision by 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Executive Board is asked to approve proposal to:

- Change the lower age limit of Christ the King Catholic Primary School from 3-11 years of age to 5-11 years of age and close the LEA maintained nursery.

#### **6.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS**

Christ the King Catholic Primary School Consultation Document

## APPENDIX 1 Statutory Notice

### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LOWER AGE LIMIT OF BRAMLEY CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Kings Approach, Leeds LS13 2DX, intends to make a prescribed alteration to Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School on 1 September 2009.

It is proposed to close the nursery at the school. This would cause the current age range of 3 -11 to change to 5-11.

The current capacity of the school is 192 and the proposed capacity will be 198. The current admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will remain 30.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal have been complied with.

#### Making representations

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: The Chair of Governors, Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Kings Approach, Leeds LS13 2DX.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the Chief Executive, Education Leeds, FAO School Organisation Team, 9th Floor West, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT or alternatively email to : [educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk).

Signed:

Mr Philip Jackson

Chair of Governors

Bramley Christ the King Catholic Primary School

Date: 21st May 2009

