

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR CHOPPINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

18 September 2015 – 6 November 2015



Choppington Primary School
– a happy place to be –

Choppington Primary School is carrying out a consultation on a proposal to extend the school roll.

The proposal is to expand the age range of this school by one year (to include 2 year olds). If this proposal was implemented, the intake into Choppington Primary School would be extended at a later date.

We need to find out what you think about the proposal outlined in this document and also whether you have any alternative ideas about how the issues highlighted in this consultation document could be addressed.

WHY IS CHOPPINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTING ON THIS PROPOSAL?

The Governing Body of Choppington Primary School has discussed and considered the proposal to extend the school roll and include 2 year olds for a few months now. During that process, we had to consider all positive and negative effects upon our school community and the education of the pupils. The Governing Body feels that we need to recognise and embrace change for this school in order to provide a consistent setting for pupils from 2 to 11 years of age.

The Governors are keen to ensure that this proposal reflects the needs of the children, young people, families and community in this locality. Therefore, it is important that as many consultees as possible respond with their views to ensure that Choppington Primary School Governing Body is fully informed before any decisions are made.

PROPOSAL FOR THE WAY FORWARD

There has been considerable change over the past year within the Bedlington Partnership and Action for Children. As part of this reorganisation, the closure of the Children's Centre was as a result of a public consultation which included Choppington Primary School. It is the school's intention to move EYFS into the Children's Centre building and as part of that process it seems sensible that the school provides additional places to support the council's statutory duty to provide 15 hours per week of education and childcare to the most disadvantaged 2 year olds instead of Action for Children.

The only difference that there may be, would be afternoon sessions for two year olds as well as those in the morning.

The Governors think this proposal may be the best way forward for our school.

THE PROPOSED MODEL FOR REORGANISATION

Action for Children would be directly impacted by our proposal outlined in this consultation document.

The Governing Body's formal proposal on which we are consulting is

- **Change the age range for Choppington Primary School from age 3-11 to age 2-11 with effect from 1 January 2016.**

Table 1 shows the current structure and pupil numbers in the three schools and the proposed structure:

Table 1

SCHOOL	CURRENT SITUATION			PROPOSED PRIMARY MODEL		
	Capacity in Sept 2015 (Number on Roll in Sept 2015)	Forms of Entry (FE)	Planned Admission Number (PAN) 2013/14	Capacity	Forms of Entry (FE)	Planned Admission Number (PAN)
Choppington Primary School	120 (91)	0.5	15	135	0.5	15

OTHER IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

Staff

If the proposal to extend the age range of Choppington Primary School is approved following this consultation, there would need to be an addition to the staffing structure.

Admissions and Catchment Areas

In relation to admissions, there would be no change to the Bedlington Partnership of schools.

Early Years

The current provision for 3 and 4 year olds in this part of the partnership would change under these proposals. All Early Years children from 3 to 5 years old would be educated within the existing Children's Centre building when it is transferred to Choppington Primary School.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Current provision for students with SEN would remain in place and there are no plans to change this as part of these proposals.

School Buildings

There would need to be some building work at the school for the January 2016 change.

Sport and Recreation

Under this consultation there would be no proposed changes to the current sporting facilities available at the school site.

To view catchment areas, or for further information on SEN and Home to School Transport provision, go to the County Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk and follow the appropriate links from 'Schools and Adult Learning'.

Proposed Timeline for implementation

If the proposal to extend the age range of Choppington Primary School as outlined in this document is approved and implemented, it is proposed that the change would take place along the following timeline.

1 January 2016

Choppington Primary School

- All pupils aged 3 and in Reception to Year 6 on 31 August 2015 would remain in the school as normal.
- All children using 2 year old provision in Action for Children would transfer to our school roll.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY VIEWS ABOUT THESE PROPOSALS KNOWN?

The decision on how to proceed will be made by the governing body of Choppington Primary School when they have reviewed feedback received from all those who have been consulted and in light of the issues raised in this consultation document.

Therefore, the Governing Body would like to hear your views on the proposal set out in this document and whether you have any alternative suggestions that could resolve the issues raised. A questionnaire is attached to the end of this document for you to complete with your views and returned to the school by **12.00 noon on Friday 6th November 2015**.

In addition, separate meetings will take place at the school for staff and for parents and the public in order to provide the opportunity for attendees to gain further information and to ask questions – details are provided below.

Venue	Meeting for:	Date	Time
Choppington Primary School	Staff	Friday 2 nd October 2015	12.00 pm
	Parents / Public	Friday 9 th October 2015	9.00am

Following the closure of consultation on Friday 6th November 2015, the Governors will produce a report, setting out the findings of their consultation and will make a decision whether or not to extend the age range of the school to take 2 year olds.

QUESTIONNAIRE - CONSULTATION FOR THE PROPOSAL OF CHOPPINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Your name:

Are you responding mainly as a (tick one box only):

Parent/carer: ☐ Governor: ☐

Staff Member: ☐ Please state which school: _____

Resident: ☐ Parish Councillor: ☐ Other: ☐

Your views; (continue on a separate sheet where necessary)

In relation to the proposal, please answer the following questions:

- 1) In relation to the proposal that Choppington Primary School extends its school roll, do you believe this would be in the best interests of all the pupils residing in the catchment area of the school?

Please provide the main reasons for your answer:

- 2) If you think there are other ways of dealing with the issues as an alternative to the proposal outlined in this document, please set out your suggestions below.

Please return this form in an envelope, or send by email to be received by **12:00 noon on Friday 6 November 2015** to:

**FAO Hilda Blythe, Choppington Primary School, Eastgate,
Choppington, Northumberland, NE62 5RR.**

email Donna.Stephenson@northumberland.gov.uk

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THIS CONSULTATION