

Consultation on a change of age range at Armathwaite School

As you may know, Armathwaite Nursery Group closed at the end of the summer term. To make sure families continued to have access to nursery provision, the Armathwaite School governors introduced a childcare service from the start of term in September. The governors are keen to ensure this continues into the future, and want to establish 'maintained nursery provision', which would ensure children attending are always taught by a qualified teacher.

In order for the school to establish a maintained nursery it is necessary for Cumbria County Council to publish a formal notice to change the age range of children that the school can cater for. The existing age range of the school is 4 to 11 and the proposal is to change that to 3 to 11 years of age.

To make this change we must first consult on the proposals with those who may be affected, and then consider any responses received before deciding whether to go ahead with the next stage of the process.

It is proposed that the current arrangements will remain in place until 1 January 2021. Following that, should the change in age range be approved by the County Council's Cabinet, it is not anticipated that parents or children would experience any significant change to existing arrangements; it is not proposed that the existing nursery operating hours would alter, nor the teaching arrangements currently in place. Essentially, children would continue to attend in the way they do now. The change in the school's age range would simply ensure that the existence of nursery provision in the village is protected for the future.

This letter marks the start of a 4 week consultation period which will run from 7 September 2020 until 2 October 2020. Using the reply slip overleaf you can indicate your support, or otherwise, for the proposal. There is also space if you wish to make any additional comments. Cumbria County Council's Cabinet will then consider the responses it has received and decide whether to publish formal notice of the proposal. If notice of the proposal is published a four week 'representation period' will start, providing another opportunity for comment. Within two months of the end of the representation period Cabinet must make a final decision on the proposal. If the proposal is approved it is likely that the change would be implemented from 1 January 2021.

Further information is available at

www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation

Using the reply slip overleaf, your response should be returned to:

School Organisation, Environment and Regulatory Services, Parkhouse Building, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ.

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Proposal to change the age range at Armathwaite School from 4 to 11 to 3 to 11 years of age to establish a maintained nursery provision.

Please tick one box:

I support this proposal

I do not support this proposal

Additional comments

Please indicate your interest in this proposal by ticking one of the boxes below. I am:

Parent of a child at Armathwaite School/Nursery

Staff/governor at Armathwaite School

Other (please specify)

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Name.....(Please print)

Postcode..... Date.....