

# SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs J Coles

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## Proposed incorporation of a Pre-School at Speen School LOWERING THE AGE OF ADMISSION CONSULTATION FROM 4 JANUARY – 14 FEBRUARY 2019

Speen School is currently a school for pupils aged 4 to 7. From Easter 2019, the school would like to lower the age of admission to 3 years and open a new Pre-School on its site. The Pre-School would run for 38 weeks per year in line with school term times; sessions would be from 08.45 – 12pm- and from 1.00pm – 3.00pm with an optional lunch time club from 12.00-1.00pm

The current Pre-School in Speen is suffering from falling pupil numbers. The management committee have approached Speen School to ask for its support to ensure that pre-school provision continues to be offered in the village.

There are a number of aspects still to consider in relation to the proposal and we are interested in finding out the views of our local community. For this reason, **we will be holding a public meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7pm at Speen School.**

Ideally, if the response is positive, we would seek to open the new Pre-School after Easter and thereby lower the school's admission age from 1st April 2019 (the school term actually starts on the 20<sup>th</sup> April). We are seeking responses to this consultation by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, either by sending the attached response form to the Speen School Office [office@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk), or to the Chair of Governors, Dr Eamonn Barrett [governors@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:governors@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk)

We appreciate that you may have questions on the proposal and have tried to answer some of these below:

### **Why are we proposing to open an Early Years setting?**

Speen School would like to ensure that 3 and 4 year olds in the locality still have access to provision in the locality. Pre-School provision at Speen School would fit in well with our School family ethos.

### **Do staff and governors support the proposal?**

Yes, the Governing Board, the Headteacher and staff at Speen School positively support the proposal as they believe it would benefit current and future pupils, the local community and help to keep the school at the heart of the local community.

### **Will the proposal disrupt the education of pupils currently at the school?**

No. By having a Pre-School on site, we firmly believe it will further enhance the provision at the school. There is no expectation for any external building work to be needed in the short term.

### **Why are we consulting now?**

We are keen to understand the views of our local community on this proposal and so, as per best practice recommended by the Department for Education (DfE), we have incorporated a period of consultation into the decision making process. The consultation will run from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January until 5pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Will there be extra traffic and how will you reduce the impact?**

Children already attend Speen Pre-School, with a few children travelling into the village. These children will simply be dropped at a different venue. It is possible that there may be a slight increase in traffic. However, the vast majority of pupils will be local and we believe that many pupils will already have siblings in the School and will therefore be travelling together.

### **Will the proposal have any impact on admission to the school's reception class?**

No. Current admission arrangements to the School will remain unchanged and will not be affected by admission to the Pre-School. Please see Buckinghamshire County Council's website for the specific criteria for school admission.

### **What are the next stages in the process?**

Responses will be received throughout the consultation process which ends on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February. These will be analysed and the School will publish the outcomes on its website.

### **How can I respond to this consultation?**

Please complete the attached consultation response form and return it to the school for the attention of Dr Eamonn Barrett, Chair of Governors: [governors@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:governors@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk). Alternatively, please email us at [office@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk).

We would really welcome your views on our proposal and look forward to receiving your completed response form. Should you have any additional queries please contact us at the address above.

Thank you for your interest.



Dr Eamonn Barrett  
Chair of Governors



Mrs Jacquie Coles  
Executive Headteacher

To: The Pre-School planning committee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

I am: (please tick all that apply)

- A parent/guardian of a child at Speen School
- A parent/guardian of a Pre-School child
- A close neighbour of the school
- A member of the local community
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am in favour of Speen School lowering the age of admission to 3 years to incorporate a Pre-School provision:

**YES/ NO** (please delete as appropriate)

I am the parent of a pupil who will be age 3 in the academic year 2019/20 and would like to express an interest in a place at Speen School's Pre-School:

**YES/ NO** (please delete as appropriate)

I would like to attend the public meeting on ..... to have the opportunity to speak to the Governing Body about the proposal.

**YES/ NO** (please delete as appropriate)

Any Comments:

If you would like further information please provide your email address to enable us to contact you:

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