



Pre-school Consultation January/February 2019

Thank you to everyone who replied to our consultation. We aimed to deliver our consultation to all residents and school parents either by hard copy or email as well as posting on our school and village website for wider circulation amongst any interesting parties. We received 23 replies, which are summarised below:

23 people strongly agreed to our proposal

3 would be interested in sending their children to the new Pre-school

Any concerns raised primarily were:

Increased traffic during peak times

Loss of revenue for Speen Village Hall

An impact on teaching and resources for current pupils

Positives mentioned were:

Improvement to congestion in Studridge lane – site of current Pre-school
A way to ensure high quality education continues for the children in Speen and surrounding catchment area;

An increase of up to 30 hours of funded pre-school provision;

An active school in the community is very important to the residents; the proposed Pre-school will help maintain this.

Consultation Meeting Summary

The meeting was held on 22nd January and was attended by 16 members of the community. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the benefits of opening a pre-school on school site and answer questions.

The current chair of Speen Pre-school, Jess Walsh, explained the current situation. Unfortunately Speen Pre-school has had to close due to high running costs, lack of parents able to commit to be committee members required for a charity run pre-school and dwindling pupil numbers. The school was approached to start discussions and asked to consider helping to maintain a pre-school provision in Speen village. Meetings and discussions were had with Bucks CC, Staff and Governors regarding feasibility and a decision was made to open a Pre-school provision on site.

Mrs Coles, Head teacher, was advised that this model has already proven successful in many other small schools locally and nationally. It was thought to be is an excellent way to help the school's dwindling numbers by allowing an easy pathway from age 3years, enabling pupils to be at the school for five years, reducing the need for an additional site transition for children at the age of 4. The pre-school will be staffed in accordance with the required ratios using guidance from the Early Years Commissioning Team. This will not impact or detract on pupils' learning across the school. The school would advertise for a pre-school leader who will work closely with members of the current school staff team. A few small changes to the existing layout will provide the pre-school children a safe and easy entry into school.

Questions arising from the Meeting

- Increase in traffic-

The new provision will offer 30 hours for up to 16 children. The pre-school will be open from 8.50am - 2.50pm, the drop off and collection times are 10-15 minutes difference from school, allowing for any school traffic to be cleared from the site and therefore safer for pupils and parents and limiting any congestion for residents.

- The effect on current staff/teaching –

The new pre-school is to be housed in the play area adjacent to Year R classroom, which is only partially used during the school day. There is therefore, a minimal knock-on effect to the rest of the school.

The pre-school will be staffed in accordance with the required ratios using guidance from the Early Years Commissioning Team. This will not impact or detract on pupils learning across the school. We will continue to staff the school; ensuring qualified teachers and Learning Support Assistants are in place for optimum learning.

As our school grows, there may be a need for our daily structure for break and lunchtimes to alter accordingly.

- Loss of revenue for Village Hall –

Although this is a concern for all in the Speen community, the pre-school can no longer run at the site. With the government initiative of 30 hours funding, pre-schools need to offer full day opening to be profitable.

Conclusion

Mr E Barrett, Chair of Governors concluded that with these plans, we believe we are taking the necessary steps to enable the longevity of a pre-school and school provision. Speen School is excited about this great opportunity, education is always changing and we believe any expansion will be positive for both staff and pupils.

We remain committed to our plans to proceed with our new provision and will endeavour to update our website as we progress, to keep you all informed.