

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
**Cllr Pauline Church**

**SERVICE AREA**                      **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**OFFICER CONTACT**                **Clara Davies, Head of School Place Commissioning**  
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**REFERENCE:**                        CS-04-20

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**Statutory Notice to change the age range of Stanton St. Quintin Primary School,  
Stanton St. Quintin, Nr. Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6DQ.**

**1.     Purpose of Report**

To ask the Cabinet Member to approve the statutory proposal published by Wiltshire Council on 23 April 2020. The notice proposed to change the age range of Stanton St. Quintin Primary School to provide pre-school provision from 1 September 2020. The school will then admit children from the age of 3 years. Pupils will be accommodated in existing buildings on the site.

**2.     Relevance to the Council's Business Plan**

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure effective school organisation and sufficient school places are provided across the Council area.

**3.     Main Considerations for the Council**

Creating a nursery at Stanton St Quintin Primary School will provide 24 places for 3 - 4 year olds in the local area. There is currently no pre-school provision in Stanton St Quintin. Whilst there are a number of nurseries in the wider area, this proposal will offer parents a wider choice of settings and one which is more accessible for the immediate community.

The Council does have the option to do nothing but that would not create pre-school provision in the village.

**4.     Background**

Stanton St Quintin is a small village school situated to the north of Chippenham. The school has capacity for 147 children with a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 21. It has capacity to operate as a five-class school. In the last 5 years, the NOR has reduced due to a number of factors: low occupancy of military accommodation, aging demographic of catchment families and a falling birth rate affecting many schools in Wiltshire. This has resulted in the school reducing from 4 classes to 3 to reflect the numbers on roll, resulting in surplus classrooms.

The number of pupils registered at the school (as at October 2019 census) was 64 full time pupils from Reception (R) to Year 6, as follows:

YrR	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Total
9	8	4	5	14	11	13	64

The reducing numbers in the school means that there is now an opportunity to use one of the existing surplus classrooms to offer pre-school places.

In creating these new pre-school places, there will be no changes to the school's Admission Policy as attendance at the pre-school will not offer any additional guarantees of a school place at Stanton St Quintin Primary School at statutory school age. Places will continue to be allocated on the existing over subscription criteria so equality of opportunity for all will not be compromised.

In order to create the pre-school places, the age range of the school needs to be lowered from 4 to 11 years currently, to 3 to 11 years from September 2020.

The Published Admissions Number (PAN) of the school will remain at 21 for September 2020 and September 2021 as those PAN's already been determined and published. However, the LA will consult in accordance with the Admissions Code of Practice to reduce the PAN to 17 with effect from September 2022.

Until that reduction comes into effect, the current and proposed places available are shown below.

CURRENT OFFER		PROPOSED OFFER	
	Places		Places
Age 3-4 (Nursery)	0	Age 3-4 (Nursery)	24
Age 4-5 (Reception)	21	Age 4-5 (Reception)	21
Age 5-6 (Year 1)	21	Age 5-6 (Year 1)	21
Age 6-7 (Year 2)	21	Age 6-7 (Year 2)	21
Age 7-8 (Year 3)	21	Age 7-8 (Year 3)	21
Age 8-9 (Year 4)	21	Age 8-9 (Year 4)	21
Age 9-10 (Year 5)	21	Age 9-10 (Year 5)	21
Age 10-11 (Year 6)	21	Age 10-11 (Year 6)	21

There will be no displaced pupils as all pupils at the school will continue to be educated at Stanton St Quintin Primary School from September 2020.

There are a number of pre-schools between 2-5 miles away from Stanton St Quintin Primary School. However there are none in the village itself. The school proposes to offer wrap around care from 8.30am-5.30pm to meet the demands of working parents. It is not expected that offering pre-school provision at Stanton St Quintin Primary School will be at the detriment of existing good quality early years provision elsewhere.

### Consultation

Wiltshire Council and Stanton St. Quintin Primary School have widely consulted on the proposal to expand the age range at Stanton St. Quintin Primary School to provide nursery provision. The consultation took place between 1 March 2020 and 27 March 2020 with the following interested parties:

- Parents and carers of children at the school
- Teachers and support staff at the school
- Governors at the school
- Local Authority
- Local Councillor
- Parish Council
- Other schools and pre-schools in the area
- Wiltshire Council's Lead Member for Children's Services
- Residents of Stanton St Quintin and Lower Stanton

A public meeting was due to be held at the school on 23 March 2020 but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the lockdown measures implemented by the Government for the COVID-19 outbreak. The school therefore requested that interested parties and stakeholders email any questions so they could be answered before the end of the consultation period. No questions were received.

The following consultation responses were received:

Stakeholder Group	Total number of responses	In support	Not in support
Staff	8	8	0
Parent/families	6	6	0
Governors	3	3	0
Local Residents	1	1	0
Local schools and Pre schools	No responses		
Parish Council & Councillors	No responses		
Other	1	1	0

Following this round of consultation, the Council published the statutory proposal on the 23 April 2020. The statutory proposal period ended on 23 May 2020 and there were no objections or comments received.

## **5. Overview & Scrutiny Engagement**

Not applicable

## **6. Safeguarding Implications**

All schools are designed to ensure that schools provide safe and secure places for children and young people in the local community. If a decision was taken not to provide places locally to meet demand in a local area then there is a risk that young children would need to be transported to settings further away leaving them more vulnerable due to the distance they are from home.

## **7. Public Health Implications**

Providing early years places in the community will enable local families to walk to school rather than travelling to settings further away.

## **8. Procurement Implications**

The limited adaptation works required will be procured by the school. There are no procurement implications for the Council.

## **9. Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

The Local Authority has a duty and responsibility to provide sufficient places to meet demand arising from all areas of the community.

## **10. Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

Having early years places available in the village should result in reduced vehicle journeys to settings further away.

## **11. Risk Assessment**

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is not taken**

The Council does have the option to do nothing but that would not create pre-school provision in the village. The school also hope that having a nursery on site will attract families and drive up their applications, stemming the decline in their numbers on roll.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

There is a risk that the limited capital works required could be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and Covid-19. However, the school have already identified that an alternative room could be used for the nursery temporarily if necessary.

## **12. Financial Implications**

An existing school classroom will be used to create the pre-school places. Currently this classroom is used for music, break out learning and by the After School Club; and is separate to the main school building. A small number of adaptations have been identified, including the creation of a designated pre-school outdoor play area. The school will fund these adaptations from the school budget.

### **13. Legal Implications**

There is a prescribed process that must be followed where it is proposed to change the age range or increase the number of pupils. These proposals fall within those requirements and the relevant public notice has been given. The Council has a duty to consider any representations received as a result of that notice, before making a determination to approve or reject the proposal. Any approval may be made conditional on the grant of planning permission or other prescribed matters.

Alterations to Maintained schools, such as Stanton St Quintin are governed by The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (“Prescribed Alterations Regulations”). When exercising functions under these regulations regard must be had to guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE), “Making ‘prescribed alterations’ to maintained schools”, which sets out the procedure to be followed. The process as set out in the report follows that of the guidance.

The Cabinet member, as decision maker must have regard to a list of factors included in further statutory guidance, namely “Guidance for decision-makers”, particularly Section 2 and 3.

### **14. Options Considered**

The conversion of an existing classroom to a nursery can be achieved with very limited investment. Having a nursery class within the school will improve the outcomes for the children in the school community by ensuring they are school ready when they start in Reception. Therefore this is considered to be only viable option to meet the demand for places in the village.

### **15. Reason for Proposal**

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient places across Wiltshire and this proposal will provide the community of Stanton St Quintin with pre-school places in their local community.

### **16. Proposal**

To approve the statutory proposal published by Wiltshire Council on 23 April 2020. The notice proposed to change the age range of Stanton St. Quintin Primary School to provide pre-school provision from 1 September 2020. The school will then admit children from the age of 3 years. Pupils will be accommodated in existing buildings on the site.

Appendix A – Statutory Notice

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## Appendix A

### STATUTORY NOTICE

#### **Wiltshire Council Statutory Notice of a proposed Change of Age Range at the Stanton St. Quintin Primary School, Stanton St. Quintin, Nr. Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6DQ.**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Wiltshire Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Stanton St. Quintin Primary School, Stanton St. Quintin, Nr. Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6DQ. Wiltshire Council proposes to change the age range of Stanton St. Quintin Primary School to provide pre-school provision from 1 September 2020. The school will then admit children from the age of 3 years. Pupils will be accommodated in existing buildings on the site.

The statutory representation period will begin on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 and will continue until 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020.

#### **Access to copies of the full proposals**

This Notice is a brief extract of the full related proposals, which are available to view on the Stanton St. Quintin Primary School website at [www.stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk) and on the Wiltshire Council Consultation portal <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracyconsultations>. Paper copies of the full proposals can also be obtained upon request from School Buildings and Places Team (ref: Stanton St. Quintin Primary School), Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.

#### **Comments on, or objections to, the proposals**

Any person or organisation may object to, or comment on, the above related proposals by sending them to School Buildings and Places Team, Wiltshire Council (ref: Stanton St. Quintin Primary School), County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN **within 4 weeks** of the date of publication of this Notice, namely **by 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020**.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with.

**Signed:**

**Mr Ian R Gibbons  
Solicitor to the Council**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020**