



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Dear Consultee

**Branton Community First School -**

**Consultation to incorporate the current Community Powers Nursery into the main school, so becoming a maintained nursery and therefore increasing the school age range from 4 to 9, to 2 to 9 years of age.**

The reason for the proposal is purely administrative. This would be an opportunity to simplify the administration of our nursery as funding arrangements for the eligible hours (currently 15 hours per child) would then fall under the main school budget rather than having to be applied for on an individual basis.

There are exciting times ahead for our nursery as Northumberland has been confirmed as one of the pilot authorities where 30 hours of free nursery provision will be available from September 2016 to qualifying families (Families where both parents work for at least 16 hours per week and have a family income below £100,000)

Breamish Valley Nursery runs alongside the main school and operates in the school building. Breamish Valley Nursery currently offers provision from 2 years old (one afternoon each week) and from rising 3s for up to 10 sessions each week (30 hours, 15 of which are currently eligible for funding from 3 years, or 2 years to qualifying families). There is no proposal to change any of the current provision or to change staffing or buildings.

The Governing Body of Branton Community First School and the Nursery Committee of Breamish Valley Community Nursery are consulting on the option to incorporate the current Community Powers Nursery into the main school, so extending the school age range from 4 to 9 years to 2 to 9 years. The purpose of this letter is to invite comments on this possibility.

This consultation is totally separate to the change to primary from September 2016 and indeed was discussed by the Governing Body and Nursery Committee before our other recent consultations.

Once the views of parents, governors, staff and the local community are collected, the Governing body will decide whether or not to proceed with the change.

Branton First School and Breamish Valley Nursery fully embrace the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and its requirements, and are committed to the Forest School approach. Nursery children would continue to be fully integrated into the school and we would continue the current successful organisation and staffing.

If the proposal is approved the only change would be the arrangement of funding which we would propose to change from April 2016.

Admission to the nursery would continue to be in accordance with the school's nursery admission policy. Admission to the Reception Class would remain under the main school admissions policy.

Northumberland County Council transport policy does not cover children attending nurseries. The County Council provides transport to children attending Reception and above, in line with the School Transport Policy.

### **What next?**

The consultation period will commence on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and run for the next 6 weeks (not including half term) ending on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016. 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 from April 2016.

Your comments on the proposals for change of age should be sent to:

Mrs Zoë Ryan (Head teacher),  
Branton Community First School,  
Branton,  
Alnwick,  
Northumberland,  
NE66 4JF,

or you can email [admin@branton.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@branton.northumberland.sch.uk)

The response form will also be available on the school website  
[www.branton.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.branton.northumberland.sch.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal.

We are very grateful of your continued support and any comments you choose to make will be valued.

*The Branton and Breamish Team*

# Consultation Response Form

Your name: .....

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

Parent/carer:  Governor:

Staff Member:

Resident:  Parish Councillor:  Other:

In relation to the proposal,

I agree to Breamish Valley Community Powers Nursery becoming the maintained Nursery of Branton Community First School.

I disagree with Breamish Valley Community Powers Nursery becoming the maintained Nursery of Branton Community First School.

If you wish to comment further, please comment in the box below.