

Roxbourne First School and Roxbourne Middle School Governing Bodies' Responses to Consultation about establishing a Nursery Class at Roxbourne First School

The Consultation was from Friday 25 September 2009 until Friday 23 October 2009 and included a public meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2009

The Proposal

- It is proposed to establish a 60 place Nursery Class for 3 – 4 year olds at Roxbourne First School from September 2010.
- The Nursery Class would offer 30 part-time places in the mornings and 30 part-time places in the afternoon. The sessions will be for 3 hours.
- Over time the Nursery would offer a range of provision to provide parents with increased choice in line with the flexible offer entitlement.

Why is a Nursery Class at Roxbourne First School being proposed?

- The Nursery provision will provide children with a best start, securing high attainment for the children at the end of the Foundation Stage and beyond, particular continuity will be provided and be of significant benefit to the majority of children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL). Roxbourne First School had 90% EAL pupils in Reception and 18 different languages spoken in the 2008 intake.
- A Nursery Class will establish the full Foundation Stage at Roxbourne School. This will provide continuity for those children entering the Nursery and then being admitted to the Roxbourne First School Reception Classes. (Currently pupils are admitted to Reception from more than 20 different pre-school settings and some with no pre-school experience).
- The type of housing in close proximity to the school is predominantly three bedroom homes, an increasing number are being extended as family size grows. Roxbourne First School has seen over the last two to three years an increase in the number of young families with small children moving in to the area.
- The Nursery will be complemented by Children's Centre provision at the school site due to open in March 2011 (the first one in Rayners Lane). This will increase access to a range of services for children and their families, including Breakfast and After School Clubs and Toddler Groups.
- There is demand in the area for 3 year old Nursery provision. This is arising through an increase in birth rates, but also because of changes to other provision in the area (including the current closure of the Nursery class at Alexandra School). The birth rate is predicted to increase, and past experience has shown that the numbers of children have tended to exceed the predictions.

- It is considered that the establishment of a Nursery Class at Roxbourne First School would enhance provision in the area and would not undermine existing early years provision. There are good working relationships with local pre-school provision and the establishment of a Nursery at Roxbourne would further enhance this with opportunities for joint training and early years cluster working.

When would the Nursery Class open?

- It is proposed that the Nursery Class will open in September 2010.

Where would the Nursery Class be located?

- The Nursery Class will be located in an existing purpose built Early Years classroom with its own enclosed outdoor learning area on the far side of the School field, currently occupied by a Reception Class.

What will be the process for applications to the proposed Nursery Class?

- To apply for a place at the Roxbourne Nursery class you will need to complete an application form which you can get from the School or Access Harrow at the Civic Centre. The timescale for applications will be in line with other schools with nursery classes. Places will be allocated by a date which is agreed annually by Headteachers with nursery classes. Admission to a nursery class does not give any priority for a place in the school's reception class. If your child has a place in the Nursery you will still need to apply for a First School place.

How will the Nursery Class be funded?

- The School will receive funding for the Nursery Class as calculated by the Harrow Schools Funding Formula. This funding will provide 15 hours free nursery provision for 3 – 4 year olds in line with the Government's policy and cover staffing and other costs.

The Response from Stakeholders to the Consultation

- There has been an overwhelmingly favourable response to the proposal to open a Nursery class.
- 96.9% of stakeholders were in support of establishing a Nursery class at the school.
- 3.1% were not sure.
- There were 0% responses to not establishing a Nursery.

There have been a number of enquiries about Nursery places for September 2010 from families with children already in the schools and also from outside.

Parents, pupils, governors and staff at both Roxbourne First School and Roxbourne Middle School were canvassed.

Parent written comments included: 'We give our full support to establish a Nursery Class in Roxbourne'; 'We are glad to hear this good news'; 'Great idea, much needed'.

Roxbourne Middle School Pupil Advisory Council 'unanimously agreed that to have a Nursery on site would be a brilliant idea'.

There were a few concerns expressed about congestion inside the school grounds near the front entrance from Torbay Road, with additional parents, pushchairs and young children.

This should not be an issue as:

- There will be no Year 7 pupils and parents.
- There will be a new pedestrian access for the Nursery and Children's Centre from the back entrance in Waverley Road.
- The Nursery start and end times will be slightly different from the First School and Middle School.
- The access path at the front of the school has been considerably widened over the half term holiday. There are further plans to increase this in time by adapting the flower beds between the main building and mobile classrooms.

Roxbourne Middle School Governing Body Recommendation to Cabinet

The Governing Body is unanimously in favour of establishing a Nursery class at the school and has the full support of the whole school community. We are therefore recommending to Cabinet that serious consideration is given to this proposal as it is clear from the response from stakeholders that not only is there a need for Nursery provision in our area but also a desire that it is provided by the school. This will ensure continuity across the Foundation Stage.