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Head Teacher: Mrs. K. Whitaker

School Business Manager: Miss. J. Simpson

12/03/2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Members of the Community,

### **Consultation to extend the age range of Ingleton C of E Primary School From 4-11 to 3-11 year olds**

As you may already be aware, our Pre-School is currently run by our Local Academy Council and is not part of the school's age range or numbers on roll. This is a proposal to extend the age range of the school so that it brings the Pre-School provision formally into school and we would like to invite your views on this proposal as part of our consultation process.

#### **Background**

The Pre-School was established in September 2013 to provide development opportunities to local Pre-School age children and provide a route into the established primary school education system. In 2020 the running of the primary school moved to the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust and has now become well established within the Trust. It is now proposed that, to formalise the benefits of shared resources the Trust will amend the age range of the school so that the Pre-School provision can be operated as part of the school. The existing services provided will pass to the primary school and it is proposed that the age range of the school will be 3-11 by the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

#### **Staffing of Pre-School provision**

The staff who currently work for the Pre-School are already employees of the Trust. These staff already benefit from close working relationships with the school staff and will be able to access Early Years networks and support as part of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust.

#### **Pre-School sessions**

Existing arrangements for the number of children catered for in the morning and afternoon sessions in the Pre-School will remain. All children within the Pre-School will continue to benefit from a high quality play-based curriculum with the same familiar staff who are part of the staff team at the school under the overall management of Mrs Whitaker as Head Teacher.

#### **Impact on school**

We are confident that this change will have a positive impact on school. The school is now well established as part of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust and has a dedicated challenge, improvement and support partner from the Trust as well as access to support networks across many areas including Head Teachers and Business Managers, Senior Leader Network, Lead Learners Network, SEND network and Early Years Network to support staff.

Progress has continually been good and key stage assessments show that children are at least in line with national averages. The change will help continue to ensure a smooth transition for those children who then move into Reception and greater oversight of the entire Early Years Foundation Stage.

## **Governance**

The school Academy Council alongside the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust will continue to oversee the governance of the Pre-School as part of its wider governance of the school.

## **Benefits**

We are confident that extending the age range of the school to take in Pre-School will benefit both the school and the local community by formalising this wider learning community, maintain close working relationships between Pre-School and school staff and continue to offer opportunities for early support and consistent transition into school for Pre-School children.

## **Process**

Once the public consultation period has finished, a summary of the feedback will be submitted to the Department for Education as part of our application to request that they agree to the school lowering its age range as set out above. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, and the Department for Education granting its consent, we would aim for Pre-School being part of school with an age range of 3-11 by 1 September 2021 at the latest.

## **Public consultation**

We wish to invite views on this proposal and this consultation starts on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and will run until 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Comments and questions can be sent to the following email address between these dates: [ingleton@durhamlearning.net](mailto:ingleton@durhamlearning.net)

We can set up individual consultation meetings by phone or virtually to discuss any particular queries on request.

We will endeavor to answer all queries which are not addressed above and all comments and queries will be taken into account by the Academy Council and the Trust in deciding whether to proceed with this proposal to lower the age range of the school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. K. Whitaker  
Head Teacher



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