

Consultation about establishing a nursery class at Roxbourne First School

Consultation from Friday 25 September 2009 until Friday 23 October 2009

What Are the Proposals?

- 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.

The consultation

- Harrow Council is consulting about the proposal.
- The consultation starts on Friday 25 September 2009 and ends on Friday 23 October 2009.
- A public meeting about the consultation proposals will be held on Wednesday 14 October 2009 at 7.00pm in the Hall at Roxbourne First School.
- The Roxbourne First School Governing Body will consider the outcome of the consultation with the school community and will make a recommendation to Cabinet about whether statutory notices should be published with a view to a nursery class being established at the school.

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, particular continuity will be provided and be of significant benefit to the majority of children who are 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.
- The type of housing in close proximity to the school is predominantly three bedroom homes. Roxbourne First School has seen over the last two to three years an increase in the number of young families 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. 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. 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 a 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.

How will the decision about whether to establish a nursery class be made?

- Cabinet will consider the recommendation of the governing body and the outcomes of the consultation at their meeting Thursday 12 November 2009.
- If Cabinet decide that there are good reasons to proceed further with the proposals, then Statutory Notices to extend the age range of Roxbourne First School and to expand the school would be published for 6 weeks. During this time representations could be made to the Council, which Cabinet would then consider and will determine the notices accordingly.
- If, following this statutory consultation, Cabinet decide that there are not good reasons to proceed further with the proposals, then the initiative would not continue.

How can I make comments about the proposal?

- Parents, staff and governors of Roxbourne First School and Roxbourne Middle School are invited to send their comments to the Roxbourne First School office or the Roxbourne Middle School office.
- All other stakeholders are invited to send their comments to: Harrow Transforming Learning Team, PO Box 22, Harrow Council, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow HA1 2UW.

Where I can I get further information or assistance?

- You can contact Roxbourne First School Office, Torbay Road, Harrow, HA2 9QF
Tel:020 8422 9207
Email: firstoffice@roxbourne.harrow.sch.uk
Website: www.roxbournefirstschool.co.uk
- Harrow Transforming Learning Team PO Box 22, Harrow Council, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow HA1 2UW.