

Consultation about clarifying the age range of Priestmead School

Consultation from Thursday 19 November 2009 until Friday 11 December 2009

What is being proposed?

- It is proposed that the age range of Priestmead School from September 2010 is clarified as being for pupils aged 4 to 11 with an attached nursery class.

Background

- Priestmead First School and Priestmead Middle School will combine on 1 January 2010. They will become a primary school for pupils aged 4 to 12 with an attached nursery class. All pupils attending the separate schools will attend the combined school.
- From September 2010, the school reorganisation proposals will be implemented and all schools in Harrow will be aligned with the National Curriculum Key Stages. Primary schools will have pupils from age 4 to 11, in Reception to Year 6 classes. This change will not affect nursery classes. All pupils will attend secondary school in Year 7.
- The Priestmead School age range will need to be brought into line with these arrangements, as no other primary sector schools in Harrow will have Year 7 classes.

The consultation

- The consultation starts on Thursday 19 November 2009 and ends on Friday 11 December 2009.
- It is proposed that from September 2010 Priestmead School becomes a primary school for pupils aged 4 to 11 years, in Reception to Year 6 classes, with an attached nursery.

Why is age change being suggested?

- During the Autumn 2008, Harrow Council consulted parents and interested parties on proposals to change school organisation in Harrow to align schools with the National Curriculum Key Stages and for pupils to transfer to high school at the end of Year 6.
- The outcome of this consultation was in support of this proposal. Harrow Council published statutory proposals for these changes, which were agreed by Harrow Cabinet in April 2009.
- Under these proposals all schools in Harrow will become separate infant, separate junior, combined primary or secondary schools from September 2010. This change was agreed for the separate Priestmead First School and Priestmead Middle School.
- Since this change was agreed, statutory proposals have been approved to combine the two schools on 1 January 2010. All existing pupils will attend the combined school and there will be pupils aged 4 to 12 years, in Reception to Year 7 classes, with an attached nursery.
- From September 2010, the age range of Priestmead School needs to be changed so that there are pupils aged 4 years to 11 years, in Reception to Year 6 classes, with an attached nursery.
- This is a technical requirement to align the two sets of statutory proposals that were approved in April 2009 and September 2009.

What is the process to change the age range of Priestmead School?

- Legislation provides a framework for consultation, publication and determination of statutory notices in respect of proposals for schools. This consultation is the first stage with a view to statutory proposals being published and determined by March 2010.

How will the decision about the future age range of Priestmead School be made?

- Comments and responses received during the consultation will be considered by the Director of Schools and Children's Development who will decide whether statutory proposals are published.
- If agreed, statutory proposals would be published in early January 2010 for 6 weeks. During this time representations could be made to Harrow Council.
- The Portfolio Holder for Schools and Children's Development would decide by March 2010 whether to approve the proposals.

How can I make comments about the proposal?

- The Priestmead schools have a federated governing body, which will consider its response to the consultation proposal. The Governing Body of Priestmead Schools and Nursery has representation across both schools and will ensure that the views of stakeholders across both schools are properly canvassed and considered.
- Parents, staff and governors of the Priestmead schools are invited to send their comments to the school offices. All responses will be passed on to Harrow Council for consideration.
- 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?

- If you require any further information please contact the Harrow Transforming Learning Team, Children's Services, Harrow Council on 020 8420 9270.