



## Rothersthorpe C.E Primary School

Church Street,

Rothersthorpe, Northampton. NN7 3HS

Tel No: 01604 830995

Email: [bursar@rothersthorpe.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@rothersthorpe.northants-ecl.gov.uk)



### CONSULTATION FEEDBACK FOR A CHANGE OF AGE RANGE FROM 4-11 YEARS TO 3-11 YEARS AT ROTHERSTHORPE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The following stakeholders were included in the consultation:

- Rothersthorpe CE Primary School Staff and Parents
- Rothersthorpe Village Hall
- Rothersthorpe Parish Council
- Rothersthorpe PCC (Parochial Church Council)
- Peterborough Diocese
- The Local Authority – West Northamptonshire
- Rothersthorpe Day Nursery Staff and Parents
- Village Community
- MP for Daventry – Chris Heaton-Harris
- MP for West Northamptonshire – Andrew Lewer
- Local clubs, including GLK Academies
- All primary and secondary schools in Northamptonshire
- 12 x parents interested in sending their children to the proposed pre-school at Rothersthorpe CE Primary School
- 8 x parents, whose children are due to start in Reception class at Rothersthorpe School in September 2023.
- The consultation documents were shared on several public social media pages. This included Rothersthorpe School Facebook and Twitter pages and Rothersthorpe Village Community Facebook and Twitter pages.
- The consultation documents were shared on the school website

**From the above list, there were 35 positives responses for the pre-school.**

**There was one stakeholder objection with seven emails received.**

#### Positive and in-favour feedback received from a range of stakeholders from the list above- overall themes

- A further improved transition for the pre-school pupils into Reception
- Knowing the staff and pupils well
- Helpful for parents having all their children in one setting
- Their children having a qualified early years teacher and qualified staff
- Parental choice
- High standards and good morals, support and care
- Setting resources inside and outside, as well as the large playground and field

- Combined year groups works very well - all year groups will benefit
- Christian values
- Thriving environment
- Academic potential
- Increasing the number of pupils at the school will support the future of the village
- More pupils at the school will also support Rothersthorpe Day Nursery
- The school has the necessary facilities and expertise to add a nursery into an already successful school - giving parents and children the opportunity to have a complete Early Years and Primary experience in one setting.
- The school has 12 pre-school pupils already on a waiting list for September 2023.
- Bringing a fresh influx of new parents and children to Rothersthorpe Village – this will help everyone to survive.

#### Concerns expressed from a range of stakeholders if the pre-school does NOT go ahead at the SCHOOL

- Redundancies of staff at Rothersthorpe CE Primary School.
- Closing one class and mixing reception, Y1 and Y2 pupils together and how this would be planned for and the possible impact on pupils' learning and development.
- The future of the School and Village Hall if the School continues to have low pupil numbers and does not start a pre-school.
- Losing the 11/12 pre-school pupils on the School waiting list, if the 'change of age-range to 3-11years' is not completed on time for a September 2023 start.
- The school organises lots of events and activities in the Village and to lose staff and children would adversely affect the Village community.

#### Concerns expressed if the pre-school DOES go ahead at the SCHOOL.

- The future of staff security at Rothersthorpe Day Nursery.
- The worry of Rothersthorpe Day Nursery closing due to loss of income and the impact on the Village and wider community.
- The relationship between the Nursery and School.
- Pre-school pupils being taught in a Foundation Stage 1 and 2 class – mixed age class at the School.
- No guarantee that the pre-school children at Rothersthorpe School will have a place in the Reception class.
- The school not being able to provide provision out of school hours and out of term time.
- Toileting facilities.

#### Questions from the Consultation: All Stakeholders

##### **1. How many pre-schools pupils can attend Rothersthorpe School?**

**Answer:** The indoor class space can hold 22-24 pupils at any one time, pre-school/reception pupils. This is determined by the EYFS statutory framework and is according to staff qualifications and the amount of space available.

**2. Is the school prepared that not all children who attend pre-school will be out of nappies?**

**Answer:** The LA has visited the School and checked provision. The school has visited other settings to see high-quality pre-school/reception class settings.

**3. What qualifications will staff in the class have?**

**Answer:** The class will have a fully-qualified Early Years Teacher who has a Degree in Early Childhood Studies from Birth to 8 years. The school also has two, Level 3 qualified staff.

**4. Can parents use the 15 hours free childcare funding?**

**Answer:** Yes

**5. The concept of mixing pre-school and reception children in same class/area**

**Answer:** The School's Qualified Early Years Teacher has a Degree in Early Childhood Studies from Birth to 8 Years and is able to teach and plan for pre-school and reception children with her qualification. We also have two members of staff who are Level 3 qualified. The Local Authority has visited the School. The class will be taught from the Early Years Curriculum: Foundation Stage 1 – Preschool and Foundation Stage 2 – Reception. Our EYFS teacher is also a fully qualified SENDCo – Special Education Needs. Pre-school children will be able to access all the school resources and any extra or specialist support if needed. Pre-school children will be able to take part in all school events; fully being part of the school community. Parents would have a choice of whether they want to send their child to the pre-school at Rothersthorpe School or another setting. Parental choice is important.

**6. Will Rothersthorpe C E Primary School or iMAT (The Trust) change the admissions criteria to include attending Rothersthorpe C E Primary School's Pre-school?**

**Answer:** No. The School and Trust follow the Local Authority Admissions criteria. The school has published the Admissions Policies on the school website for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

**7. What would the impact be on Rothersthorpe Day Nursery and staff jobs if the School opened to some pre-schoolers?**

**Answer:** Of the 12 x pre-school pupils on the school waiting list, only 1 would be moving from Rothersthorpe Day Nursery. The other 11 pupils attend other Nurseries outside of the Village. If 11 new pupils come to the school, there is a potential for their younger siblings to attend Rothersthorpe Day Nursery if they so choose.

The school cannot offer the same provision as Rothersthorpe Day Nursery. The school can provide 22-24 spaces at anyone time; during school hours; during term time.

*(Note: The pre-school waiting list at Rothersthorpe School has now increased to 12 pupils. There is clearly a need).*

**8. What would happen if the 12 new pre-school pupils were NOT able to start at Rothersthorpe School in September 2023?** (The school has 12 pre-school children on a waiting list for a September 2023 start).

**Answer:** If the pre-school does NOT go ahead, 11 of the 12 new pupils will attend other pre-schools outside of Rothersthorpe Village. When these pupils reach reception-age they could potentially attend those primary schools closest to that pre-school. (Especially if the School has to mix Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils together as this would not be such a favourable option for parents). These pupils and potential younger siblings will be lost to the Village School and Day Nursery. This will also affect the sustainability of the School with staff redundancies and a class closure.

**9. Should the Pre-school consultation letter have come from The DfE or The Diocese of Peterborough?**

**Answer:** The consultation is carried out by the School and Trust inline with the DfE documents. An agreement letter has been provided by The Diocese. The School/Trust will apply to the DfE after the consultation.

**10. What is the procedure and time-frame for starting the pre-school?**

**Answer:** Once the consultation period has ended, feedback will be collated and published on the school website, as agreed by the LA. An application will then be made to the DfE. The DfE makes the decision on whether the age -range of the school can be changed. If agreed, the pre-school will start at Rothersthorpe School for September 2023.

**11. Will all feedback be sent to the DfE and LA?**

**Answer:** This feedback document will be sent to the LA and DfE. Also, all email feedback received will be available for the LA and DfE to read if they request it.

**12. Will all letters and feedback be published? If so, where?**

**Answer:** An overview of the consultation feedback will be published on the school website in a format agreed by the Local Authority and Trust. *(This document)*. Individual emails received cannot be published on the school website, but are available for the LA and DfE to read if requested.