

Proposal to Co-locate Gamesley Early Excellence Centre to Gamesley Primary School

Introduction

Gamesley Early Excellence Centre, Winster Mews, Gamesley, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 0LU is a 52 place Nursery School which caters for pupils aged from 2 to 5 years.

The school is owned and run by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and since the vacation of an external childcare provider from within the same building, there has been a substantial amount of empty space. This has then subsequently increased the running costs of the building and poses challenges for the future sustainability of the Nursery School.

DCC recognises the fundamental importance of the Nursery to the Community and this proposal will ensure that the Nursery provision is viable for the future.

The Executive Headship role of the Nursery School is currently being undertaken by the Headteacher of Gamesley Primary School, the former head leaving the post at the end of the spring term.

The Primary School staff are also supporting and developing strong links with the Nursery School staff in other key areas such as safeguarding and pastoral care.

It is proposed that the co-location will commence from the 1st September 2023.

What are we consulting on?

DCC, working with the Governing body of Gamesley Early Excellence Centre and Victorious Academy Trust is proposing to relocate the school to co-locate on the site of Gamesley Primary School.

Gamesley Primary School opened as a new school on 1st December 2018 as part of Victorious Academy Trust. The school is located 160 feet from the Early Excellence building, a one-minute walk.

The school currently has a capacity of 315 with a pupil admission of 45. The current admission numbers have been significantly below this for a number of years and this has meant that there is sufficient accommodation within the school footprint to accommodate the Nursery school.

The approach to co-location

Both schools wish to retain their individual identity and autonomy, but also make the most of the opportunities that co-location presents to co-operate and collaborate, enriching the learning, pastoral and social experiences of pupils, staff, parents and the local community through the sharing of knowledge, ideas, skills, expertise and resources.

The schools' vision is that the co-location be characterised by a sense of developing a learning campus with a shared educational ethos. Strong and meaningful links between the schools will ensure that everyone feels valued within an ethos of mutual respect, and that a range of exciting joint initiatives can develop organically over time.

How it will work

The schools are conscious of the need to work with pupils, staff, parents, governors and the local community to prepare them for the co-location, address any anxieties they may have, and ensure the change is as smooth as possible. In order to achieve this, they intend to develop a transition plan mapping out steps for collaboration, which along with the current Headship arrangements can build up gradually with time.

Anticipated benefits

It is anticipated that the co-location will result in many mutual benefits for staff, pupils, parents and the local community.

Gamesley Primary School has a well-recognised strong commitment to inclusion which is demonstrated by the open, welcoming approach of staff, pupils and governors to the concept of co-location and the staff's immediate offers of things they would like to share with the Nursery School.

Some of the anticipated benefits for both schools are as follows:

Co-location will provide the opportunity for a smoother transition to Primary School for the Nursery pupils as they will be familiar with the site and staff.

Staff from both schools will have valuable opportunities to share knowledge and skills in relation to inclusion, special needs and a range of curriculum areas.

Both schools will benefit from economies in sharing some facilities (such as specialist learning spaces, dining and some play spaces) as well as staff

(such as premises and kitchen staff) and resources and services (such as ICT).

The consultation and decision making process

This consultation will run from 24th April to 26th May 2023.

There is no formal requirement for a statutory consultation as the distance between the two schools is less than two miles.

However to fully engage with the parents/guardians, wider community and stakeholders we welcome your views on the proposal and all observations will be considered very carefully and a decision will be sought by Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Members on the 6th July 2023.

To take part please email your views to jenny.webster@derbyshire.gov.uk , write to Jenny Webster, Derbyshire County Council, Children's Services, County Hall – Room 178, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG or alternatively hand them into the school office in a sealed envelope marked CONSULTATION for the attention of Jenny Webster (Childrens Services).