

# The Report on Pinchmill Lower School consultation on changing the school age range from 2017 onwards

December 2015



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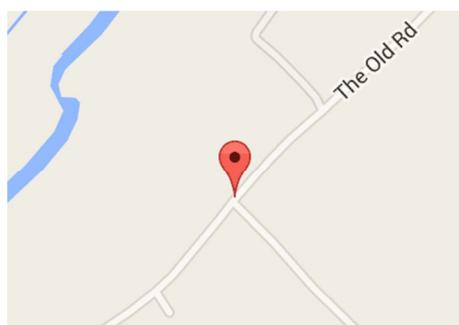
- Consultation Report

## Section 1

The Governing Body of Pinchmill Lower School is now in a position to report on the outcome of consultation regarding:

### **Pinchmill Lower School's consultation on changing the school age range from 2017 onwards.**

Pinchmill Lower School is situated in the village of Felmersham: MK43 7JD



**The URN is 109451**

**The DfE number for Pinchmill Lower School is 822/2048**

### **Brief history**

A school has stood in Felmersham since 1846 when the National School was built opposite the church in The High Road. It had a single classroom with outside toilets which gave off an 'unbearable' smell. The early school also suffered from a lack of heating, poor lighting and no ventilation. In 1912, a temperature of two degrees below freezing was recorded in the classroom.

The Education Act of 1870 authorised (but did not require) the local authorities to compel children to attend school between the ages of 5 and 13. The school was therefore extended in 1869, by the addition of a gallery, to accommodate the increased number of children.

However, in the 1880's the school was still insufficient in size to accommodate the 90-100 children. The classroom was partitioned in order to separate the children and reduce the level of noise. During the second world war the school population increased again when children were evacuated from the large cities to country areas like Felmersham.

It was during the Second World War that Felmersham and Radwell began fund raising for a village hall but the fund stagnated. With the proposed replacement in the early seventies of the village school a unique opportunity presented itself for a joint venture, whereby the new facility would combine the new school with a village hall. Fund raising within the community provided the village share of the £86,000 building costs and the school and

village hall opened in September 1974. Taking the name Pinchmill from the archipelago of islands in the River Ouse, the school was named Pinchmill Lower School.

A new classroom was added in 2004 and in 2005 the school was again extended to accommodate a new library, art-room, ICT room and the classrooms were extended.

### **Alteration proposal to the age range**

It is proposed that Pinchmill Lower School will extend its age range from a 4 to 9 years Lower School to a 4 to 11 years Primary School.

### **Implementation and stages of implementation**

The proposal will be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

- In September 2017 – Year 4 children will have the option to remain at the school and become a new Year 5
- In September 2018 – Year 5 children will remain at the school and become a new Year 6

### **Capacity**

The current capacity of the school is 75 pupil places.

Following implementation, the proposed capacity will increase to 105 places.

We do not wish to alter the admission number. This is 15 places annually, each September.

However, in September 2017 a new Year 5 will be created and in September 2018 a new Year 6 will be created to enable pupils, who would have had to leave the school at the end of Year 4, the opportunity to remain at Pinchmill Lower School.

### **Objectives of our proposal to change the age range are:**

- To provide for continuation of the curriculum, whereby we can ensure continuity within Key Stage 2 without having to consider the interruption of transition at the end of Year 4.
- Within the national curriculum we can ensure there are no gaps in what the children are taught
- Whole school planning can map the progress of curriculum subjects all the way to year 6 ensuring the foundations built lower down the school are carried through allowing all

children to continue working in an environment that completes their entire primary education in one setting.

- To sustain high standards of education and maintain the nurturing and well-being of children by:
  - nurturing our children and helping them work towards their aspirations in an environment they are used to
  - providing a values based, Primary focused learning environment to the end of Year 6
- To offer children in Years R - 6 an exciting and innovative curriculum provision that meets their needs and supports them to achieve their full potential.
- To avoid two transitions at the end of Year 4 and Year 8; ensuring that the provision at Pinchmill Lower School links seamlessly with other local providers.
- To help drive up standards in Bedford Borough and meet the local area vision for development including the progress for vulnerable groups.
- To aide teacher recruitment and retention as fewer and fewer authorities have three tier and teachers are trained for the two tier system

## **Consultation**

An informal consultation process was carried out between 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015; the outcome of this is outlined elsewhere in this report. Attached is a copy of the consultation document.

## **Who did we inform?**

We informed and invited comments from a wide range of stakeholders and the wider community through a number of approaches. The major consultees were:

- Bedford Borough Council
- Parents of every registered pupil at the school
- Parents of potential pupils in our catchment area and in Early Years provision
- Staff who work at the school, and school governors
- Our local communities and our current site users
- All other schools within Bedford Borough
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposal

Public meetings were held for parents and stakeholders:

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

An electronic version of the consultation was placed for all stakeholders and interested parties on the school website, and on the village website. It was also sent to the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee.

### **Implementation**

The context of the implementation is part of the wider plan by Bedford Borough Council, the Local Authority, that is currently consulting on facilitating a two-tier system of education in the Borough, commencing in September 2017. The Borough already has a number of primary and secondary schools currently operating.



## **The Report on Pinchmill Lower School's consultation on changing the school age range from 2017 onwards.**

**December 2015**

The purpose of this section of the proposal is to:

- Provide detailed information about the responses to the consultation process;
- Respond, in particular, to the areas of concern that have been raised as part of that process;
- Identify how the Governing Body will meet the objectives for changing the age-range, as set out in the consultation process.

The consultation with stakeholders covered a single proposal:

**From September 2017, should Year 5 pupils remain at Pinchmill Lower School, Old Road, Felmersham, Bedford and move into Year 6 from 2018?**

The Governing Body invited, through the consultation, responses to the following specific proposals:

- From September 2017 – Year 4 pupils should remain at Pinchmill Lower School and move into a year 5 class and then into year 6 in 2018. Pinchmill Lower School's age range changes from 4 to 9 years to 4 to 11 years
- The School made it clear that there were no proposals to amend or consult on any changes to the current admissions criteria.

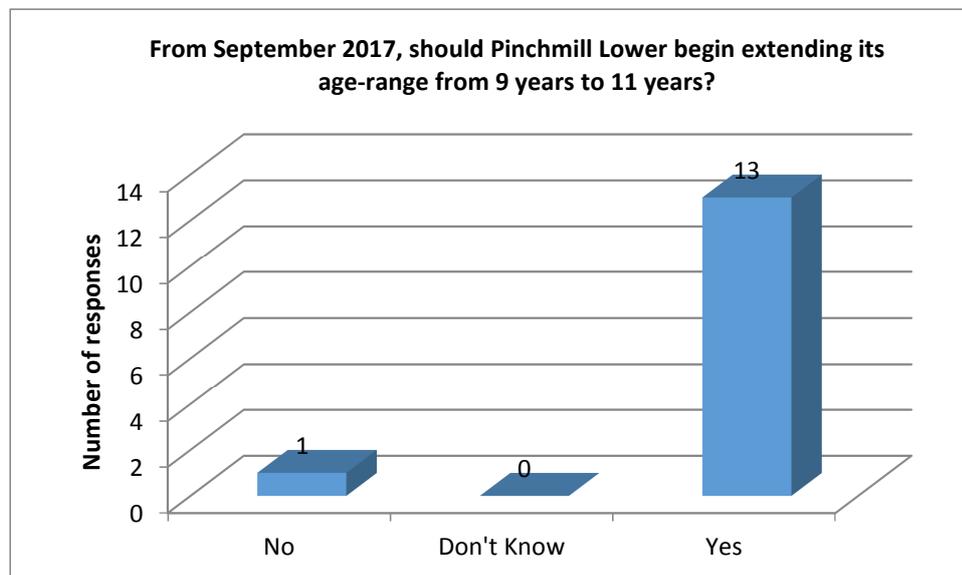
### **Summary of responses**

A total of 14 written responses were received for the proposal plus some verbal questions and responses that arose from the people who attended the consultation events. In terms of this report, there will be an indication of the responses received in graphical form and a commentary derived from the specific feelings that respondents made.

The report will then detail:

- Areas of concern
- The School's responses to comments raised through the consultation process

## Proposal



Of the 14 people who expressed a firm opinion in this way, whilst the vast majority were in favour of the proposal (13/0/1), some of those people expressed concerns about certain elements. These are detailed below, together with the governors' response to those concerns:

### Areas of Concern

There were many positive responses about the standard of education at the school and statements in support of the proposal.

### Written responses:

The following are verbatim concerns raised in relation to the proposal. The key issue of each concern is highlighted in bold print. Where this general concern is repeated by another respondent, the number of times is shown in brackets (e.g x1):

- **Traffic congestion** already terrible sometimes, the milk lorry is unable to pick up the milk, this is unacceptable. Also Calor Gas lorry cannot deliver and has to come back later just like the milk lorry. Ambulance?

*The increase in numbers of children attending the school will be a maximum of 30. Considering that there will be siblings, and that we have made a commitment to look at provision of before and after school provision, and the fact that we currently have morning and after school clubs every day to spread the traffic congestion, the governing body felt that this is an issue which is manageable. We are also currently holding discussions with local land owners regarding the possibility of using some land to create a parking area. We will also be contacting Bedford Borough Council's Highways Department to hold discussions regarding parking and congestion.*

- Another questionnaire to see if **wraparound care** is required.

*We regularly review the need for wraparound care, in the past there has not been a sufficient requirement for this service to make it cost effective to provide. We have however always considered the needs of parents and have on every occasion managed to accommodate their needs. We will carry out another survey to assess the need and make the necessary provision should it be required.*

- I am concerned about the **development of the whole child** as an older person in the Pinchmill environment and how this will prepare them for a school such as Sharnbrook Upper.

*The children who have left Pinchmill in the past have been well prepared for their onward journey, both educationally, socially and emotionally. We have always worked closely with the schools that the children from Pinchmill have transferred to. This has ensured that their transition has been as smooth and seamless as possible. We will continue to develop close links with Sharnbrook Upper School in terms of transition arrangements, and to work closely with them to ensure that we access regular opportunities for the children to visit Sharnbrook and use their facilities and resources.*

- I wonder whether the **Toddler Group** ... can continue to meet at school in the new building and if so whether **space** to store play equipment will be available?

*We feel that it is important to maintain the community feel of Pinchmill. The Toddler Group has operated from Pinchmill Lower School for around four years now, having previously run from the Village Hall Committee Room. The school was instrumental in ensuring that the Toddler Group could continue to run, we supported the set-up, running and storage of the resources for the group. There is no reason why this should change and we will do all that we can to ensure it continues to run.*