

## **Wokingham Borough Council Children's Services**

### **Full Statutory Notice**

#### **Statutory Proposal to lower the age range at the Colleton Primary School to establish new early years provision**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Wokingham Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to the Colleton Primary School, from 1 September 2025.

#### **Contact Details**

Name and address of Local Authority publishing the proposal:

Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN

#### **Name, address and category of school that is the subject of the proposal:**

The Colleton Primary School, Colleton Drive, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 OAX

A Community School

#### **Contact details during statutory representation period:**

This is a four-week consultation, which begins on 24th April 2025 and concludes at midday on 22nd May 2025. Any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending representations to:

Piers Brunning, Education and SEND, Childrens Services, Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN

Email: [piers.brunning@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:piers.brunning@wokingham.gov.uk)

A public consultation event will be held at the Colleton Primary School at 19:00 on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025. All interested parties are welcome to attend this event, where presentations by Wokingham Borough Council staff will be followed by the opportunity to ask questions and/or provide direct feedback.

#### **Description of alteration and evidence of demand**

Wokingham Borough Council is proposing to change the age range for the school from age 4 to 11 to age 2 to 11 to open a 52 place nursery provision. This would

enable the school to provide early years education and childcare places to children aged 2,3 and 4 years old from September 2025 at the Colleton Primary School, a local authority maintained Good school (December 2023).

The proposed nursery provision would primarily be based in the building currently used by the Little Acorns Pre-school. Children attending the nursery would also have access to the Colleton Primary School's resources including Forest School, hall and playground areas.

The curriculum, planning, provision and pupil's progress would be overseen and line managed by the school's senior leadership team.

The nursery setting would offer teacher-supported learning through play-based around the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for 2-4 year olds prior to their entry into school.

The nursery would become an integrated part of the school and would be housed within the school site. The current Little Acorns Pre-school would close and the Colleton school would take over the provision within the same physical site until the lease expires.

There will be a separate admissions policy for nursery age children which would be managed by the school. This offering would align closely to the school day and be during term time only.

There is sufficient local demand to ensure the Little Acorns Pre-school is viable, so the new nursery class is expected to fill. The national further extension of the number of free hours of childcare in September 2026 is also expected to increase demand locally.

## **Objectives:**

The Colleton wishes to contribute to and support the Government's scheme to support more parents and family members returning to work after parental leave ends. In addition, the benefits to the school, the children and local community include:

- A continuity of provision from 2 to 11 year olds for our families which reflects our vision and ethos
- Optimise the use of our facilities and capitalise on our expert knowledge of the early years' foundation stage provision.
- Further develop our successful transition from Nursery to Reception
- To better ensure a full cohort of 30 children in our Reception year, supporting the school financially, which in turn benefits the whole school community.
- Early identification of vulnerable families and SEN needs so appropriate support can be implemented quickly
- Provide employment opportunities and continuing professional development for current staff.

## **Effect on other Educational Institutions**

As the new nursery class replaces an existing setting, it is not expected this will have an adverse impact on other local institutions.

## **Project Costs**

The setting will use the existing Little Acorns building and other existing facilities so requires no capital spend.

Revenue costs will be met through established early years funding streams so the impact of the scheme on revenue budgets will be neutral.

## **Implementation Plan**

Wokingham Borough Council has complied with all applicable statutory requirements in connection with this proposal. At the conclusion of the notice period, if permission is granted by the Executive, Wokingham Borough Council will implement the proposal.

The school will complete necessary staff transfer processes over the spring and summer of 2025.

If approved, the plan is to formally open the new facility in September 2025.

Signed: Dr Ming Zhang, Assistant Director for Education & SEND, Wokingham Borough Council

**Publication Date: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025**