

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	To approve the proposal to change the age range at Ashfield Park Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11 from 1 September 2023
<b>Date of decision:</b>	8 May 2023
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Head of Educational Development
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	The authority for the specified officer to take this decision as set out in the Children and Young Peoples scheme of delegation line 91.  <a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50108429/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Scheme%20of%20Delegation.pdf">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50108429/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Scheme%20of%20Delegation.pdf</a>
<b>Ward:</b>	Ross West
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>Ashfield Park primary school conducted a public consultation from 3 March – 17 April 2023.</p> <p>10 responses were received. All 10 responses were in agreement that age range should be change to 2-11</p> <p>Reasons below:</p> <p>Would like a facility for 2 year olds as they already have other siblings who attend Ashfield so easier for dropping off, picking up and communication.</p> <p>Wanted their 2 year old to attend so they could transition easier from EYFS Nursery to school age Reception as familiar with surroundings, staff and facilities.</p> <p>Wanted the flexibility they felt our Nursery would be able to offer and support them with.</p> <p>Access to school based resources such as Speech and Language and SEND so speed up assessment and diagnosis if necessary.</p> <p>Felt our Nursery would challenge and stimulate their child</p> <p>Parents/carers can build up a strong relationship with the school</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	Approve the age range change at Ashfield Park Primary School
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The Childcare Act (2006) requires local authorities in England to ensure there is sufficient childcare for children (aged 0 to 17 years old) of working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children within their local area.</p> <p>In the Spring 2023 Budget, the Government announced a package of increased childcare support. One of the areas of addition support allows working parents to access 30 hours of free childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year, from when their child is 2 years old to when they start school. This will be rolled out in April 2024.</p>

	<p>Demand for funded 2 year old places has increased, across the county, over the last 3 years (pre-pandemic) by 23%. With the additional funding on offer, this will increase further.</p> <p>There has been significant growth in the Ross area over recent years, with over 500 new dwellings being built. As a result, demand for childcare is also increasing.</p> <p>The change in age range will help to support parents and carers wishing to go back to work/education, and therefore supports economic growth.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	none
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	The only other option is to do nothing.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	none

Signed..... Date: 8 May 2023

Head of Educational Development