

LODDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs S Phillips, MA ED (Open)

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Friday 12th January 2018

Dear Consultee,

The Governing Body of Loddon Primary School proposes to reduce the published admission number to Nursery (Foundation Stage 1) from 72 to 52 part time places. It is proposed to reduce the admission number as of September 2018.

Background

Loddon Primary School has raised concerns with Wokingham Borough Council that the current intake of 72 Nursery children results in a financial loss for the school and means that the school has insufficient resource and space to offer local families the new option of 30 hours child care.

The national requirement for Nursery classes is that a minimum ratio of 1 adult to each 13 pupils is observed. Due to our current admission number not being in ratios of 13 each year our Nursery runs at a financial loss. Nursery funding is linked to individual pupils and 10 additional spaces (instead of 13) per cohort does not generate sufficient funding to cover our basic Nursery running costs. We are not permitted to fund the Nursery from other school budgets.

To date we have managed this financial pressure through offering additional buy-in sessions however, if many families wish to take up the 30 hour free child care offer we will no longer be able to generate sufficient budget to run 72 places in Nursery.

We are the only Nursery setting locally to have a historic admission number of more than 52 as all other settings work to the 1:13 ratio when determining their places.

There is no proposal to change the policy for allocation of places to Nursery which would remain in line with Wokingham Borough Council Policy and is published within the Foundation Stage (F1) Admission Policy on our school website.

It is anticipated, at this stage, that if the change of admission number goes ahead sufficient spaces will remain available for all children within oversubscription criteria A-E and some children within criteria F.

Over subscription criteria

A Priority will be given to relevant looked after children and that a "relevant looked after child" - as defined by the regulations - means "a child who is looked after by a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a setting is made, and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when admitted to the setting".

B Children known by the local authority to have identified additional needs and whose needs can be best met at the preferred setting - applications made under this criterion would need to be supported by supporting evidence from an appropriate professional e.g. medical practitioner.

C Children whose permanent home address is in the designated area for Loddon Primary School and who have a brother or sister or step brother or step sister or any other child (including an adopted or



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foster child) for whom the parent has parental responsibility, living at the same address, who will be at Loddon Primary School when the applicant enters the Foundation Stage Unit.

D Children whose permanent home address is in the designated area for Loddon Primary School.

E Children who have a brother or sister or step brother or step sister who have one or more parents in common or any other children as determined by the Schools Adjudicator (including an adopted or foster child) for whom the parent has parental responsibility, living at the same address, who will be at Loddon Primary School when the applicant enters the foundation stage unit.

F Any other children.

Action Already Taken

- Wokingham Children's Services has been informed of our concerns and our intention to consult on a reduction in admission number.
- Earley cluster schools have been consulted on this proposal to confirm sufficient Nursery places are available generally within the cluster schools for Earley families.
- A further Loddon consultation regarding the level of interest in taking up the 30 hours of free child care is to run alongside this admissions consultation. (Please see information on school website.)

How to respond

We are seeking views on this proposal from all that may be affected. Please send any comments no later than Friday 16th February 2018 by email to:

nurseryconsultation@loddon.wokingham.sch.uk

Alternatively written responses can be mailed to:

Nursery Admissions Consultation
Loddon Primary School
Silverdale Road,
Earley,
Reading.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this consultation.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Sarah Phillips
Headteacher



Mr Rob Henderson
Chair of Governors



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