

# Consultation on a proposal to reorganise early years provision at Hillbourne School and Nursery



**Public Consultation**  
13<sup>th</sup> January – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014



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To: All interested parties

### **Proposal to reorganise early years provision at Hillbourne School and Nursery**

The Borough of Poole is proposing to reorganise early years provision at Hillbourne School and Nursery, with effect from September 2014.

The attached information provides the background to the proposal and a response form for you to fill in. You can contact me for more information by phone on 01202 633507 or by email at [r.folley@poole.gov.uk](mailto:r.folley@poole.gov.uk).

You are invited to respond to this consultation by **Friday 21 February 2014**.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Folley  
School Organisation and Pupil Place Planning Officer

## Current Position

Hillbourne School and Nursery is currently a Primary school for children aged 3 to 11 (Nursery to Year 6). The main school has capacity for 420 pupils, with 60 children in each of the 7 year groups.

The Nursery class has capacity for 52 places as 26 morning sessions and 26 afternoon sessions, but it currently offers morning sessions only because of the low numbers of children who attend. For 2013/14 the Nursery has been combined with one of the Reception classes.

The table below shows the numbers on roll at the Nursery since it was established in 2001 up to the January 2013 school census. The Nursery has never been full to capacity.

<b>Hillbourne Community First School</b>	<b>Number on roll in the Nursery class</b>
2002	14
2003	24
2004	37
2005	15
<b>Hillbourne School and Nursery</b>	
2007	33
2008	22
2009	25
2010	20
2011	26
2012	16
2013	6

Twin Oaks Pre-school is also based at the site, in the youth centre building. Current childcare sufficiency information suggests that there are not enough children of pre-school age in the local area to sustain both the Hillbourne Nursery and Twin Oaks Pre-School.

The school has raised concerns that their Nursery is not financially viable and has suggested that the Twin Oaks Pre-School should move from its current base in the youth centre building into the early years building at the school.

## **Proposal**

The Council is now proposing to change the lower age range at Hillbourne School and Nursery from 3 -11 to 4 -11. This will mean the school provides year groups R-6 and will no longer have a Nursery class. The reorganisation will not affect the running of the school.

It is also proposed that Twin Oaks Pre-School will move from its current base in the youth centre building into the early years building at the school. Twin Oaks has operated from this site for 20 years and was rated 'good' by Ofsted in its last inspection on 12 March 2010.

The changes would take place from September 2014. If this proposal goes ahead any interruption to early years provision will be minimised.

### **What happens to children who attend Twin Oaks already?**

Children already attending the pre-school will be able to move with it.

### **What will happen to children who have applied for a place at Hillbourne Nursery for September 2014?**

The application process for September 2014 admissions has already started and those who have applied by the closing date of 15 January 2014 would expect to be notified of their application on 16 April 2014. The Council is writing to parents who apply for Hillbourne Nursery to explain that a statutory process is underway to close the Nursery at the end of this school year and, if this happens, what their options would be for Nursery education. It is proposed that Twin Oaks reserves places for those who have applied for Hillbourne Nursery.

### **Will it cost more to use the alternative provider?**

No. Parents will be able to access 15 hours of free early education for 3 and 4 year olds and 15 hours of free early education for eligible 2 year olds. Parents will also have the option to request more hours at the usual Twin Oaks Pre-School rates.

### **What are the options for children when they leave Twin Oaks Pre-School?**

Children who attend Twin Oaks Pre-School will have the same options as other children applying for a place in Reception Year. This means parents can apply for any school with a Reception class and they can express up to three preferences.

### **Will Hillbourne pupils be mixed with the pre-school?**

The pre-school will have specific designated space which will be registered by Ofsted. Children within the pre-school premises will have a separate entrance, toilets and outdoor play space.

A technical consultant has been appointed to develop designs that would provide suitable accommodation for the pre-school in the early years block. The Council will work closely with the school and the pre-school setting to ensure the minimum disruption to children, parents and local residents and to ensure the health and safety of everyone throughout the project.

The children in the pre-school will be under the charge of pre-school staff only. It is hoped that the school and pre-school will have the opportunity to work together on joint events.

## Conclusion

A range of benefits would arise from reorganising early years provision at Hillbourne School.

### **Benefits for local parents and children**

Early years provision would continue to be delivered locally, on the Hillbourne School site. Children who attend the early years provision would benefit from having dedicated and improved facilities. The early years provider is able to offer more hours of care than are currently offered by Hillbourne School. The provider would also have the opportunity to expand the number of places it can provide and to offer a more flexible service to local families.

### **Benefits for the school**

The school would be able to operate a consistent class organisation structure, rather than needing to respond to fluctuating nursery class numbers. These changes would build on local partnerships between services and maximise the resources available to the school.





# Proposal to reorganise early years provision at Hillbourne School and Nursery

Please tell us what you think about the proposal by ticking one of the boxes below. There are also spaces provided for you to use if you prefer to suggest an alternative option, and if you would like to make comments to support your view.

	Tick (✓)
I support the proposal to close the maintained nursery and move Twin Oaks Pre-School into the early years building at Hillbourne School and Nursery from September 2014.	
I do not support the proposal to close the maintained nursery and move Twin Oaks Pre-School into the early years building at Hillbourne School and Nursery from September 2014.	
Alternative Option	
Comments	

Please provide the following details:

My child or children currently attend(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a parent of a pre-school child / children  Please tick (✓) if applicable.
- I am a resident  Please tick (✓) if applicable.
- Other (staff, governor etc)  Please tick (✓) if applicable.

Please state .....

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (in BLOCK CAPITALS): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this response form by **Friday 21 February 2014** to:

**Rachel Folley, Pupil Place Planning and School Organisation Officer, Children, Young People and Learning, Dolphin Centre, Poole, BH15 1SA.**  
**Email: [r.folley@poole.gov.uk](mailto:r.folley@poole.gov.uk)**