St. Giles CE Primary School

Achieving Through Adventure

Friday 22nd July 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and all set for a restful summer break. Many thanks for making Mr. Williams and I feel welcome over the past few weeks as we've started to work together, alongside our children, staff and governors.

Volunteering

Many thanks for those who have completed the short survey to come and volunteer at St. Giles. Mrs. Bednall will be in touch with those who have kindly responded over the summer so that we can start the process of completing checks. Thank you in advance.

We'd continue to welcome additional offers of support. If you're interested then please complete the short form and we'll get in touch:
https://forms.office.com/r/RuxS7C97d8

Nursery consultation

As you will have seen on the initial letter which Mr. Williams and I sent (5th July 2022), governors and leaders at St. Giles are carefully considering whether to open a nursery at St. Giles CE Primary School.

Please find below information regarding a consultation which we are running as we carefully consider whether to extend the age range of St. Giles. We have also included some FAQs which can be found attached to this letter.

The Current Position

St. Giles CE Primary currently provides education for children from 5 – 11 years. We are a fully inclusive school committed to providing a stimulating, caring and Christian learning environment. Children 'achieve through adventure'.

We have been aware since our initial survey time that many of our parents would like our school to offer nursery places. We are lucky enough to have accommodation within the grounds of the school which will allow us to offer nursery places.

The Proposal

It is proposed to extend the age range of children admitted to St. Giles CE Primary School from 5 - 11 to 3 - 11. There would be 15 places available for 3 – 4 year-old children, for up to 30 hours per week.

We are proposing that the children would be taught within one of our large classrooms, located on our current site, shared with an equal number of Reception children.

The unit would be led by a full time teacher together with excellent support staff.

The Benefits

- ✓ The children would benefit from experiencing early educational activities to support their learning and development, as part of a wider school curriculum. This would be led by a qualified teacher and supported by our trained teaching assistants.
- ✓ Research has shown that where schools provide Early Years education, pupils benefit from settled transitions as they move between the early stages of learning. School staff are able to share their expertise between Early Years and Key Stage 1 and this is critical to consistent progress.
- ✓ Where children go on to attend our school here at St. Giles, then they would benefit from a transition which would be smooth and effective, allowing the children to settle more quickly. It would provide continuity of education and provision through a single leadership team and governing body
- ✓ It would support parents/carers in finding high quality, flexible child care in the local area and offer a wider parental choice.
- ✓ A wider range of resources and expertise could be shared across the age range of the school. This flexibility can be particularly useful for children with special needs or vulnerabilities.
- ✓ It would provide opportunity for children to attend provision on the same site as their older siblings. This should impact positively on parents' time and logistics of using different childcare providers.

It is hoped that these arrangements will be in place ready for September 2023. This would depend on the formal process to be followed.

How to make your views known

We are currently consulting on the proposal outlined above and would be happy to receive your comments by email to enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk or by letter to the school addressed as follows:

FAO Mr B O'Connell
St. Giles CE Primary school
Starkholmes Road
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3DD

We have also provided an online survey where you can make your views known: https://forms.office.com/r/EfFKe0bKdP

All comments must be received by 9.00 a.m. on the 14th October 2022.

Happy holidays and best wishes

Unfortunately we'll be saying some good byes at the end of today as we say farewell to Mrs. Robinson who has done a wonderful job whilst she has led St. Giles. Thank you Mrs. Robinson and I hope you keep in touch.

Likewise, I'm sure you'll join me in wishing our retiring Chair of Governors all the very best as he steps down as a governor. John continues to be a tireless supporter of our school and we have all benefitted from his support and dedication.

Finally: Many thanks for your continued support for the staff, children and each other. It goes without saying that I wish you all a wonderful summer and I hope you are able to enjoy time with the family.

I look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 5th September when our doors reopen from 8:45 a.m.

Happy holidays,



Ben O'Connell

Executive Headteacher

St. Giles CE Primary

Frequently Asked Questions

The Governing Body of St. Giles is proposing to formally lower the age range of school from 5 - 11 years to 3 - 11 years in order to make new early years provision for 3 – 4 year olds. We would like to know the views of parents and other interested members of the community.

Why are the governors making these proposals?

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week (and some 30 hours) of free Early Years Foundation Stage education from the beginning of the school term following their 3rd birthday until compulsory school age. This free entitlement can be taken in a school nursery, a 'foundation stage' class and/or in an Ofsted registered private and voluntary sector setting. It is parental choice as to which type of provision is most appropriate for their child and most convenient for individual circumstances.

St. Giles CE Primary School is proposing to provide places for 3 - 4 year olds as an extension of current infant class provision, by the creation of a Nursery Unit. Early Years staff would work together to provide an excellent environment for young learners' development. The Nursery Unit would have a qualified teacher to support the learning and development of the 3 and 4 year olds.

What would 'Nursery' provision look like?

It would be very similar to what is currently available to existing reception children in school. There would be high quality play-based provision including role-play, sand, water, construction, reading, mark making, and outside play. There will be free flow between areas, with supported access to the outside, offering children the choice of activities and allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development. They will be supported by knowledgeable and appropriately trained adults.

The Nursery Unit will be held in a purpose-built indoor space with access to appropriate outdoor play areas.

Why is this consultation taking place?

Currently the youngest children that the school can admit are in the reception class. In order to take younger children into the proposed new Nursery Unit, legal processes must be followed to lower the age range for the school from 5 – 11 year olds, to 3 - 11 year olds. The first step in this process is that the local community must be asked for their views.

How many places will be offered?

The proposed Nursery Unit will provide up to 15 places. This could be arranged flexibly depending upon the needs of the family and current legislation.

Which children would be eligible for a place?

Priority for admission to the Nursery Unit will be determined by an admissions policy. The governing body have published a proposed admissions policy for the nursery as part of the consultation and this is available on the school website via the link: https://bc88553e-0d31-4efe-bf60-bb7c2687ec3e.filesusr.com/ugd/a52602_f7da008b50e7408c85b0d901c303375b.pdf

How will the new foundation unit class affect other providers?

The new Nursery Unit would take children aged 3-4 years old. Our school has links with other local pre-school providers. They are being consulted and have the opportunity to make their views on the proposal known.