



Public consultation  
**Proposed Change of Age Range at**  
**Chawson 1st School**

*Official Response from the Governors of  
Chawson 1<sup>st</sup> School*

## **Public Consultation**

A public consultation was held between 5<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> February. In total the school received 10 responses.

80% were in favour of the change of age range

10% were against

10% did not answer this question directly

**Reasons cited for supporting the change of age range included:**

- **Local need**
- **Support for parents**
- **Reduced commuting**
- **Improved child development**
- **Support the transition of children in Reception**

Questions or concerns clustered around two key areas: the build, the impact on traffic and parking in the area.

### The new build

**2 neighbouring residents expressed concern about increasing the height of the existing building.** We can reassure neighbours that there is no intention to increase the height of the building. The new build plans are for a single-story building on the school grounds. All necessary planning consent will be sought and neighbours will be consulted on this as due course.

### Traffic and parking

**4 neighbouring residents expressed concerns about the impact the pre-school will have on the traffic and parking in the area.**

The change of age-range will not increase traffic when compared to the governed provision already in place. The majority of children attending the pre-school are siblings of existing pupils, or children who will subsequently attend Chawson 1<sup>st</sup> School from Reception to Year 4. The pre-school admissions policy prioritises children within catchment, and therefore a walkable distance from the school. As a result, there will not be a significant increase in traffic.

As governors we recognise the impact the school itself has on parking within the area at key times. We will continue to promote courteous parking and address any issues as they arise.

**One respondent asked if start and finish times could be staggered from the main school so as to prevent an increase in traffic at peak times.** As the pre-school will be predominantly attended by children of existing families the governors feel the best action is to align start and finish times so as to not unnecessarily extend the busy period when local residents are affected by school traffic.

**A separate respondent (parent) raised a number of concerns regarding the appropriateness of a pre-school as part of Chawson 1<sup>st</sup> School.** The Headteacher has subsequently contacted this respondent to explain that the change of age range proposal was instigated by the school itself. It was further explained that the change of age range consultation is not a question of having pre-school provision or not as existing provision exists under governor powers. As such a change of age range will not adversely affect aspects raised as concerns, such as administration and cleaning costs or space for existing pupils, compared to existing provision. The respondent

remained in opposition to the plans failing to see the benefit to the school. Based on the evidence, the governors do not share this view.

### **Consultation Event**

A public consultation meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Representatives from both the school and the Local Authority were in attendance. No members of the public attended and as such no questions were raised for consideration.

### **Change of Age Range Criteria**

The governors have reviewed all of the WCC 2020 criteria. Governors are satisfied that all the criteria are met in full. This is summarised and supported by the Local Authority response to the consultation.

### **Governor Decision**

Following this public consultation, the governors of Chawson 1<sup>st</sup> School would like to propose to the Local Authority that the age range of Chawson 1<sup>st</sup> School is changed to 3-9 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. The proposal remains as detailed in the January 2022 consultation document with no changes made.