



Proposal

The Cam Academy Trust is seeking views from interested parties on its proposal to extend the age range at **Hartford Infant School**. This proposal seeks to lower the age range to a starting age of 3 years-old from its current starting point of 4 years-old. The proposal is for 24 places to be available at the school for this additional year group from September 2021 onward.

Rationale for the proposal

There are several reasons for making this proposal to extend the age range:

- There are considerable potential educational benefits in the school being able to work with children one year earlier than currently. The opportunity to be positively involved in the education of young people from the age of 3 can help to develop skills and knowledge that help with future development. It provides a smooth and positive progression into the Foundation Stage of the school and ensures that the school knows the children well by then and can build on what is known about the children.
- There is local demand for educational places for 3-year olds. The school's own understanding of the local community and local demographic figures compared to current provision suggest that if these places become available they will be taken up by local families. It is not expected that this will thus significantly displace current provision or need to provide for families out of area. Given this, the Local Authority is supportive of this proposed age range extension.
- There is appropriate facility available on the current school site to host these additional younger pupils. The school has identified an area that is fully appropriate to this provision on its current premises. This can be brought into use ready for September 2021.
- There are children who have additional educational needs; the earlier these needs are identified, and interventions and schemes of work developed to deal with them, the better the potential outcome in educational terms for the child. Skilled professionals can assess these needs in situ during the nursery phase, constructing EHCPs as appropriate. This will ensure those children with such needs can be given the specialist help they require. Central funding available for additional dedicated staff in these cases can be applied for at this early stage and will normally follow the child throughout its education as long as it is needed. This extra support and consistent monitoring of its impact can be hugely beneficial to a child during nursery and infant education, and onwards through transition into the junior school.

Consultation

The Cam Academy Trust is seeking views on this proposal to extend the age range as suggested at Hartford Infants School. This consultation officially starts on **Monday 2 November**. It will conclude on **Wednesday 2 December**. Please could all responses be sent to the following email address: consultations@catrust.co.uk with '**Age range extension proposal at Hartford Infant School**' written in the title bar.

Alternatively, a hard copy of any response could be delivered to the school office. The Trust would be prepared to hold a virtual consultation event on this proposal if we are clear that there is a demand for this. If you wish for such an event to take place and to participate in it, then please do communicate regarding this via one of the means suggested above.

Stephen Munday, Chief Executive, The Cam Academy Trust
Mrs Rae Lee, Headteacher, Hartford Infant School