

# Newton Primary School



## Proposal for the Change of Age Range at Newton Primary School

Newton Primary School, Newton Road, Newton in  
Furness, Cumbria LA13 0LT

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## **A. Context**

### **1. Demand and Governors Approval**

- Newton Primary School offers excellent facilities in an ideal rural setting close to Dalton-in-Furness and on the edge of the village boundary of Newton-in-Furness. A dedicated team have achieved a good OFSTED Report in 2011 praising aspects of the school under review as “outstanding”, “inspirational” and “exceptional”. The school places great importance on a family atmosphere with close links with the main feeder school, Dowdales, which is located in nearby Dalton-in-Furness.
- Following a study, we found that there was a need for Early Years provision for the younger members of the community i.e. children from three years of age. (See questionnaire used and results).
- The Nursery would provide a link between the Pre- School Playgroup, which has been running successfully and is currently well attended.
- Our research has shown there is currently no child care provision within the village of Newton and the surrounding catchment area of the school, with the nearest nursery being approximately 2 miles away in the next town. This is only offering morning sessions and is currently full.
- Parents of children already attending Newton Primary along with parents from the playgroup and surrounding local villages have verbally requested nursery provision.
- As the Nursery would incorporate children of Reception age and be a Foundation Stage Unit, this increase of numbers would have a beneficial effect on all the children. Whereas access to certain activities may have been restricted due to small numbers, the children would have a wider variety of learning opportunities as a result in the increase in the size of their social group making some activities more available and more cost effective.
- To fulfil the Government’s vision for all children to access high quality early years provision that enables them to reach their full potential, this continuous provision from nursery to school age is beneficial and enables children to make the greatest progress.
- The Approval for changing the age range of the school was agreed by the Governors on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011

### **2 Description of provision**

- The children that we would like to provide for at Newton School are children who have reached the age of three (the term after their third birthday)
- Nursery aged children would be educated in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum- Birth to 60 months. Activities would be planned around the children’s interests as well as introducing them to new

ideas through a topic based approach. The children will have continuous provision both indoors and outdoors. The activities planned will cover the new seven areas of learning and the children's progress will be recorded using Cumbria's Child Progress Record. Activities will be planned by the class teacher.

- The Nursery children will share a classroom and integrate with Reception Children and operate as a Foundation Stage unit. They would be included in the whole school life including assemblies, festivals, trips and visitors.

## **Market Research**

The school has already sent out some questionnaires to determine the demand for a nursery at Newton School. Questionnaires were sent out to the local village, existing parents and playgroup parents. Some interest has been generated by advertising, resulting in a high level of requests for information and parents visiting our setting. There are currently 12 children requesting places for September 2012. (See appendix 1 for questionnaires) In addition we also have had interest shown for Nursery places for Sept 2013.

## **Admissions and Sustainability**

Since the recognition of good practice was highlighted in a recent Ofsted Report and with increased publicity the school has been successful in raising pupil numbers. The local authority prediction figures for Sept 2011 were 27, yet we currently have 38 on roll, which is a dramatic increase.

In order to maintain and increase these numbers we intend to:

- continue to provide high quality provision
- recruit children by word of mouth and recommendation
- to provide for siblings of other children already attending school
- to continue to advertise and promote the school and nursery locally with a mini prospectus to 8,000 homes in the local area and nearby villages.
- to promote the school and nursery using the local newspaper, radio and local events such as Dalton Carnival
- promote the nursery and school through our own playgroup and other playgroups in the local area

## **Staffing and Organisation**

- The planning and day to day running of the class will be carried out by the class teacher.
- The nursery/foundation stage unit will initially be available for morning sessions only with the opportunity to stay for dinner. 9am -12pm -1pm

## **Premises**

- The children will be situated in a classroom within the school building. The classroom has access to a new secure outdoor area that will be for the sole use of the nursery/reception children and can be accessed at any time. There is a toilet facility and cloak room next to the classroom.
- The schools extensive site also includes a superb outside space with adventure playground, grassed field, playground, shaded seating areas, a playhouse all being surrounded by fields. It has an excellent ICT suite, a purpose built sports hall/dinner hall, and a kitchen available for cooking lessons. Swimming lessons are offered from Reception age. The school is particularly well resourced for children with disabilities including wheelchair access, a private changing room with full sized changing facilities and showering facilities. The nursery children would also have access to these facilities. For Photographs (See Appendix 4)

## **Insurance**

- Insurance arrangements are through the Local Authority's chosen provider, Zurich Municipal (Policy number QLA 08AC020013) for public liability. This cover would apply to the new Nursery as an integral part of the school.

## **Ofsted**

- Ofsted will inspect the provision as part of the school inspection and report on it in the schools report.

## **Finances**

- The following financial implications are based on taking Nursery provision in-house, staffed as a Foundation Unit for five mornings a week. (See attached sheet)

## **Morning sessions only**

- 12 pupils - £2900 entitlement = £34000

- Nursery teacher (M3) 0.5 = £14880 per annum
- Broadly, each pupil session attracts 0.1 FTE funding at the rate of roughly £2900, which is the 2010/11 figure for a full time pupil. The census in January and May records the number of pupils and the number of sessions attended and gives the school an amount of funding for the financial year. If the nursery started in September 2012 then the census in January 2013 would attract funding for the financial year 2012-13, which is seven months behind the start of provision.

### **Strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats analysis (SWOT)**

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>Smooth Transition.  Through provision to the end of Key Stage2.  Family School in rural/village setting  Holistic Education.  Relatively small numbers.  Continuity – Child &amp; Family.  Good OFSTED report.  Numbers increasing at playgroup.  Flexible opening.  Accessible to Barrow.  Rural setting.  Excellent Facilities.  Good outside space.  Links with other small schools.  Strong links with Dowdales.  Accessible facilities for children with physical disabilities inc changing.  Can preserve child’s privacy.  Experience and expertise.  Close proximity to other rural villages without nursery provision</p>	<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>Viability of school.  Local village nursery.  Little childminder provision locally.  No nursery provision for children within school catchment area and surrounding village areas.  Professional development  Intergenerational work</p>
<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>Public transport  Limited footways</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <p>Long term sustainability</p>

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