12 February 2010
Your ref:
Our ref: sopt/mjt/Shankhill
Enq to: Mike Tuer
Direct line: 01228 226038
E-mail: mike.tuer@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

SHANKHILL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL – POSSIBLE NURSERY PROVISION

The Governing Body of Shankhill Primary School would like to provide maintained nursery education at the school. The purpose of this letter is to invite comments on this possibility.

In order to formally establish a nursery it would be necessary for the Authority to publish a formal proposal to change the age range for which the school can cater from 4-11 to 3-11.

If statutory proposals are published they will state an implementation date of September 2010. It is anticipated that the proposed nursery class would initially operate one session each day (Monday to Friday) and that sessions will be 3 hours duration each. It is proposed that these sessions will be from 9.00am to 12.00 noon, Monday to Friday, during term time.

The facility will replace the Extended Services childcare provision that is currently in place at the school. As a decision on a change of age range will not be made until after the date for applications for nursery provision, if your child is attending or obtains a place to start the current nursery provision at Shankhill School from September 2010 then he or she will be guaranteed a place in the proposed new facility. There is no other registered nursery provision (other than childminders) within a 5 mile radius of Shankhill School.

Shankhill has already fully embraced the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and all requirements have been followed. So, in practice, the children currently attending will see no difference to their provision. Providing provision for 3 and 4 year old children under the governance of the school will simplify funding arrangements and bring the funding of the existing nursery under the main school budget. Curriculum planning and delivery will be streamlined and a two year rolling programme will be established for continuous provision across the Early Years Foundation Stage and this will mirror provision provided throughout the rest of the school.

Children will be allowed to attend the Nursery facility from the start of the term following their third birthday in line with Authority guidelines. Nursery education is not statutory; parents can choose whether they wish to take up their entitlement to a free place.

It is not anticipated that the opening times will be changed in line with flexible provision requirements. It has been found that parents who use the existing facility often have other children at the school and it makes more sense to operate at a time which will suit them, i.e. the parent only needs to make one trip per day to drop off their children. Indeed, parents using the current facility have indicated that this arrangement is the most suited to them.

Nursery children will continue to be incorporated fully into the school. Children will continue to join Reception children in the EYFS Unit in the morning. Full use is made of the outside play areas, including the area under cover.

It is not intended, as an integral part of this proposal, to offer care other than during the standard education nursery sessions. It is, however, hoped to provide 'wrap around' care. Were the change of age range to be approved, the pupils will be taught with reception age pupils. The children would follow the foundation stage of the National Curriculum. The number of children who would be catered for during each session is likely to be 8 (4 FTE).

The published number for admission to the reception group at the school is currently 8 (ie for entry in 2010/11). Were a proposal to be published following this consultation the statutory notice would confirm the admission number to be used in September 2010. It is not intended that any pupils who would wish to attend the school be precluded as a result of the establishment of a nursery.

Admission to the nursery would be in accordance with the Authority's 'nursery admission policy'. Admission to the nursery would not guarantee a place in the reception group of the school that is governed by a separate policy.

If the proposal is approved transport will be provided for children aged 3 and 4 years old attending part time places at Shankhill School in line with the Authority's nursery transport policy.

If you wish for further information on the suggested nursery or its implications for the organisation of the school, this can be obtained by contacting Mrs D Urwin, Head Shankhill Primary School, Hethersgill, Carlisle CA6 6JA (Tel. 01228 577264)

Your views on the possibility outlined in this letter would be very much welcomed. The deadline for comments is Monday 15 March 2010. These can be sent by completing the attached pro-forma or sending a letter to Freepost RRBS-RLBG-GZGL, Cumbria County Council, School Organisation Team, 18 Portland Square, Carlisle CA1 1PE or alternately online following the links on the County Council website www.cumbriacc.gov.uk .

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

MIKE TUER
School Organisation Project Officer.

How to respond:

Complete the reply slip overleaf and return it or send a letter by post to

Freepost RRBS-RLBG-GZGL,
Cumbria County Council,
School Organisation Team,
18 Portland Square,
Carlisle CA1 1PE

Or

Fill in the online version on the web pages at www.cumbriacc.gov.uk say it link

Or

By e-mail to schoolorganisation@cumbriacc.gov.uk

The deadline for responses is Monday 15 March 2010

REPLY SLIP

Shankhill Community Primary School
Proposal for change of age range to provide maintained nursery provision.

Please tick:

[   ] I support the proposal.
[   ] I do not support the proposal.

Additional comments

Please indicate your interest in this proposal by ticking one of the boxes below.
I am:

A parent of a pupil at Shankhill Primary School   [   ]
A parent of a child attending the existing nursery at Shankhill Primary School
                                                                                   [   ]
A member of staff at Shankhill Primary School   [   ]
A Governor at Shankhill Primary School   [   ]
A member of the local community   [   ]
Other (please indicate)…………………………………………   [   ]

Signed…………………………………………

Address………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………Postcode……………………….

Date……………………….