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Kingmoor Business Park. Carlisle. CA6 4SJ  
T: 01228 221214. E: [school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk)

Date: 25 March 2013  
Our ref: SOT/AS/NI

Dear Consultee

## **THWAITES COMMUNITY SCHOOL - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED NURSERY PROVISION**

The county council is consulting on the possibility of providing a maintained nursery at Thwaites School, Chapel Brow, Hallthwaites, Millom LA18 5HP. The purpose of this letter is to give you some details on what the nursery would provide, to let you know more about the process involved in setting it up and to give you an opportunity to let us know what you think..

In order to establish a nursery at Thwaites School, the county council has to undertake a 'change of age range', from the current 4-11 age range to 3-11. It can only do this after consulting parents and others that may be affected. Having considered your views, the county council would then decide whether or not to publish formal proposals in order to move to the next stage in bringing about the change of age range.

It is anticipated that the proposed nursery class would initially operate one session each day (Monday to Friday) and those sessions will be three hours duration each. It is proposed that these sessions will be from 9.00am to 12.00 noon, Monday to Friday, during term time. It is not anticipated that the opening times of the school will be changed.

There is existing childcare within Millom Sure Start Children's Centre Footprint but not in the catchment area of Thwaites School. It is envisaged that there may be additional demand on early years provision, due to the new legislation with regard to funded 2 year old places for eligible families, with a subsequent need for additional 3 year old places.

Thwaites School has already fully embraced the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and all requirements have been followed. In practice, the children currently attending Reception would see a change to their provision, as the Nursery children would share a classroom and integrate with them during their sessions. There would also be some activities that would be shared with the children in KS1 such as registration, dance, story-time and snack. This is common in many Cumbrian schools.

It is not intended, as an integral part of this proposal, to offer care other than during the standard education nursery sessions (although for a charge children will be able to stay for an additional hour in order to have lunch and playtime at school). Were the change of age range to be approved, the pupils would be taught with Reception age pupils. The children would follow the foundation stage of the National Curriculum. The maximum number of children who would be catered for during each session is likely to be 4.

Children will be eligible to attend the nursery from the start of the term following their third birthday and will be fully integrated into the school. Nursery education is not statutory and parents can choose whether they wish to take up their entitlement of a free place.

Funding arrangements for the nursery provision will fall under the main school budget.

The published admission number (PAN) for admission to the Reception class at the school is currently 9 (i.e. for entry in 2013/14). The school capacity using the PAN is 63 (7 x 9) and the current number on roll at the school is 63. Were a proposal to be published following this consultation the statutory notice would confirm the nursery admission number to be used in January 2014. The establishment of a nursery would not affect the PAN for admission to the Reception class or other year groups.

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 as that is governed by a separate policy.

If the proposal is approved, transport will not be provided for children aged 3 and 4 years old attending nursery at Thwaites School. The county council only provides transport to children attending Reception and above, in line with the School Transport Policy. However, Thwaites School operates its own bus between Millom and the school stopping at various points and, subject to availability, 3 year olds can use this service for a termly charge.

The issue of this document marks the beginning of a period of consultation during which the views of any interested parties are sought. These views will be considered before any move to the next stage of the process happens. Dependent upon the outcome of this consultation, a decision on whether to proceed in issuing a statutory notice must be made by Cumbria County Council's Cabinet. The School Organisation and Governance Regulations mean that, if a council proposes to change an age range their proposal must be published in a statutory notice. Following publication of the statutory notice representations can be made on the proposal. This period lasts for six weeks. Within two months after the six week representation period ends, the county council must make a decision on the proposal. If the proposal is approved then it is likely that changes would be implemented from January 2014.

The consultation period will commence on **25 March 2013** and run for the next **6 weeks** ending on **3 May 2013**. Further information on the school's plans can be found on the county council's website: [www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation).

Any comments you have on the proposed nursery provision should be sent to School Organisation, Parkhouse Building, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4SJ by **3 May 2013**.

It is important that the county council knows your views before the Cabinet decides what to do next. Please respond by completing the questionnaire in this document or by email to [school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk) or on-line at: (Use the link below to complete the questionnaire contained in this document on-line): [www.opinionsuite.com/cumbria/cumbria-county-council](http://www.opinionsuite.com/cumbria/cumbria-county-council)

Yours sincerely



Julia Morrison  
Corporate Director  
Children's Services



Duncan Fairbairn  
Cabinet Member  
Schools & Learning

If you require this consultation document in another format (e.g. CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 01228 606060.

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 01228 606060 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，  
请致电 01228 606060

Jeigu norétumète gauti šią informaciją savo kalba,  
skambinkite telefonu 01228 606060

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę  
zatelefonować pod numer 01228 606060

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua,  
telefone para o 01228 606060

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen  
01228 606060 numaralı telefonu arayınız

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION TEAM**

**REPLY SLIP** – Please return by **3 May 2013** to Cumbria County Council, School Organisation, Parkhouse Building, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4SJ.

**Thwaites Community School**

Proposal for change of age range to establish a 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 Thwaites School

A member of staff at Thwaites School

A Governor at Thwaites School

A member of the local community

Other (please specify).....

Name (Please print).....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Date.....