

## **Change of Age Range Consultation – Thwaites School**

### **Introduction**

Between 25<sup>th</sup> March and 3rd May 2013 Cumbria County Council conducted a consultation exercise seeking the views of stakeholders and the local community on the possibility of a change of age range at Thwaites School. The proposal would allow Thwaites School to change from its current 4-11 age range to a 3-11 age range school.

### **Summary of Responses**

A total of 23 responses were received during the consultation period. Of these responses 17 were in the form of completed questionnaires received by post, 5 were completed online and 1 took the form of a letter.

Overall 96% (22) of respondents supported the proposal to change the age range of Thwaites School and 4% (1) were against the proposal.

Of those that indicated an interest on their response 61% (14) are parents. 13% (3) of respondents are school governors, 9% (2) are staff. There was also 1 grandparent (representing 4%), an individual from a local nursery (4%), Millom Town Council (4%), Bootle Parish Council (4%), and the Governing Body of Thwaites School (4%). Figures may not add up to 100% as multiple categories were selectable.

39% (7) of respondents who stated an address were within the catchment area of the school with the remainder being from the Millom/Haverigg catchment area.

### **Q1.**

#### **Do you support the proposal for change of age range to establish a maintained nursery provision?**

All 23 respondents answered this question, 22 were in favour and 1 against the proposal. The negative response came from someone with an identified interest in a local nursery.

### **Q2.**

#### **Additional Comments**

12 respondents made additional comments including:-

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
I believe that the inclusion of the nursery within the school would provide an invaluable service to the local community and play an instrumental part in the long term future of Thwaites School.	3
The school successfully nurtures and educates children to a very high standard	2
There is a family, caring and community feel at Thwaites, accepting Nursery age will add to this.	2
Would be convenient to be able to have children in one place rather than going to separate school and nursery.	2
Thwaites school is already well placed to provide an excellent level of nursery provision; the EYFS curriculum is already well developed and is embraced creatively and holistically.	2

I think it is an excellent idea and feel it will enhance Thwaites School if this provision can be provided.	2
There is no provision in our locality for 3 year old children. There is no doubt, in my opinion, that the spaces will be filled very quickly.	2
I do not feel that nursery age children sharing sessions with KS1 children is appropriate. It would be disruptive for the older children, but also too demanding on the younger children.	1
It worries me that a 3-4 year old is allowed to travel alone on the school transport.	1
Provision of Nursery Education at Thwaites will allow parents of nursery age children in the immediate locality to the School the opportunity to choose Thwaites, rather than have to transport their child into Millom - approx 4 miles away.	1
The children who attend Thwaites are caring of others in their school and are used to a mixed age school environment, so I believe nursery age children will be readily accepted into the school community.	1
Thwaites school rural location will allow the nursery children to experience that environment first hand.	1
The Governing Body is in full support of the proposed change of status	1
The provision of a nursery at Thwaites will not adversely impact on other providers in the surrounding area	1

**THWAITES PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PUPIL CONSULTATION EXERCISE 3-11 YEARS STATUS – APRIL 2013**

**Consultation was from Reception to Year 6 children. The children worked in groups.**

**SUMMARY OF GROUP RESPONSES RECEIVED**

Agree because:

- 3 year olds would be able to read, write and do many other things.
- There would be more children in the school and when they start in reception they would already know the teachers.
- Some children who are 3 years old might not find a nursery to go to and might not be learning and might not be getting any friends.
- Children could know everyone and know how the school works and where everything is before they properly join school.
- So they can learn even more and make new friends.
- So mums and dads don't have to send them to Millom every day.
- The infants could look after them and play with them.
- It would be nice for them to fit and get some friends and start to like our school.
- If they came to our school they would know some of us already.
- I think they should come because when they get 4 year old they might come here and they'll know their way around.
- I agree because it is a long way to travel to Millom and it will be good for them to make friends.
- There are more friends for the infants and it will make our school more popular and older brothers and sisters might come.
- Because it would be good for them to meet the staff and kids at our school.
- Because it would be better for them to come to school before they start in reception.
- I think it is a good idea because when they move into reception they will already know everybody and will know what it is like to be in a primary school.

- I strongly agree because the 3 year olds would get to have a chance to settle in before coming to school.

Disagree because:

- It will be quite hard because they will cry and it will take a while to get used to it.
- I think the school should get separate toys from the infants in case the infant toys get broken.  
To solve this concern: The school can have lots of fundraisers.
- I think the other infants might get distracted by their crying
- They might cry too much.
- If the older children are playing the 3 year olds might get in the way and get knocked over.  
To solve this concern: By having a different place to play for the 3 year olds.
- If they run around they might run into the juniors  
To solve this concern: Have their own play area
- It might put the infants off their work. There will be lots more crying with the receptions and nursery.
- Don't disagree because I think it's great to have them in the mornings.
- It might put the infants off.

Is there anything particular that you would think would be of benefit to our school in having a nursery?

- Because it is easier for busy parents to get to school drop off and then go home and get all the house work done.
- It will mean that when they come to our school in reception they will be more confident.
- Because it is easier for parents.
- Because it would be easier for the parents, because they won't have to drive as far.
- People that live in the Green wouldn't have to travel as far to take their child/children to nursery.
- They would stop crying before reception and they will be more confident.

