



**Consultation on the proposed change to  
the age-range at Kents Hill School and Nursery  
from ages 3-7 to 3-11**

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Kents Hill School and Nursery is part of Milton Keynes Education Trust (MKET), a partnership of schools working together to enhance and enrich the lives of children and young people. All the Trust's schools instil an appreciation that there are no limits to what can be achieved and develop the attributes needed to successfully shape and respond to the future.

At Kents Hill School our children are guided by a set of values that were chosen for their importance throughout their school journey and as a lifelong attribute. These five values represent what the whole school community believe to be central to the education of our children: Kindness; Respect; Resilience; Independence and Creativity.

The Trustees of Milton Keynes Education Trust and the Governors of Kents Hill School are consulting on changing the school's age range and would welcome your feedback.

The consultation period runs from Monday, 1 February 2021 until Friday, 26 February 2021.

### **Background**

In Milton Keynes there are four types of schools for primary aged children:

| <b>Type of school</b>                          | <b>Age range</b> |
|--|------------------|
| Infant schools, with or without a nursery      | 3 - 7            |
| Junior schools                                 | 7 - 11           |
| Primary schools, with or without a nursery     | 3 - 11           |
| All-through schools, with or without a nursery | 3 - 16           |

Kents Hill School is an infant school with a nursery and has been providing high quality Early Years and Key Stage 1 education to families in Kents Hill for over 25 years. It has consistently been rated at least Good by Ofsted.

Currently, children between the ages of three and seven attend the school. The proposal is for Kents Hill School to become a one form entry primary school with a nursery. Its new age range would be 3 – 11. This change would see children staying at the school until the end of Year 6, thus removing the need for them to transfer to a different school at the end of Year 2.

Until recently, children leaving Year 2 generally went to Heronsgate School (Key Stage 2) in Walnut Tree. However, in 2018 Milton Keynes Council built a new all-through school (3-16) in Kents Hill School's catchment area. The new school was meant to accommodate the additional children expected to come from a housing estate to be built on the adjoining land. Unfortunately, the houses have not been built yet and there will now be fewer than originally planned. This has resulted in an oversupply of primary school places in this part of Milton Keynes.

Feedback from prospective parents who visit Kents Hill School is overwhelmingly positive but some

are put off by the need for their child to transfer to another school at the end of Year 2. If they have more than one child, parents also express concern about the logistics of getting their young children to different schools in the morning.

### **Why is this change being proposed?**

Feedback from parents (past, present and prospective) indicates a strong preference for children to be able to stay at Kents Hill School until the end of Year 6 rather than have to transfer to a different school at the age of seven.

Children who currently attend Kents Hill School transfer to another school for their Key Stage 2 education. Most children move to Heronsgate School which is a junior school and then transfer to Walton High. All three schools are part of MKET and work closely together. Some join the all-through Kents Hill Park School.

Whilst the vast majority of children manage the move to another school well, a few find it unsettling and this can sometimes have a negative impact on their educational progress and wellbeing.

Before Kents Hill Park School was built, virtually all the children transferred to Heronsgate School which meant friends stayed together but this is no longer the case as parents may choose different schools.

Primary schools that cover Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 allow for a natural sense of progression. This is important both in social and educational terms.

Kents Hill School did not have the space to accommodate Years 3 to 6 when it was a two form entry infant school. Now it is a one form entry school, there is sufficient space on site for Key Stage 2 classes.

Maintaining our Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 per year will ensure we have a class for each year group and will no longer need to have mixed age classes.

The space we already have in school will, with some modifications, meet the needs of both Early Years and Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils.

Milton Keynes Education Trust has agreed to help with the capital cost of making internal alterations to the building to accommodate the older children.

A one form entry primary school is more financially viable than a one form entry infant school. Ensuring the school has sufficient funds means children will continue to attend a well-resourced school that supports all aspects of their learning and development.

### When will this change be introduced?

We propose that extending our age range happens incrementally from September 2022 as shown below:

|                   |         |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Sept 2021         | Nursery | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 |        |        |        |        |
| Sept 2022         | Nursery | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |        |        |        |
| Sept 2023         | Nursery | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |        |        |
| Sept 2024         | Nursery | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |        |
| Sept 2025 onwards | Nursery | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |

### Are any other changes being proposed?

No.

This paper is aimed at parents, staff, governors and anyone else with an interest or stake in primary education in the area. We are also consulting with children at our school, the Local Authority, schools in Milton Keynes, trade unions, local councillors, neighbours and the school's MP.

### More information

This consultation document tries to explain the main issues involved simply and briefly. Any request for further information should be directed to either the school's Headteacher, Mrs Jane Mackie or the Trust's Chief Operating Officer, Mr David Gibson, whose contact details can be found at the beginning of this paper.

**This formal consultation period runs from 1 February 2021 to 26 February 2021. During this period, we would be very pleased to receive your comments via our short online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NMGYGKR> or on the attached reply slip.**

Thank you for your time in reading this document and in any response to it, we look forward to hearing from you.

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Please return your completed reply slip to Reception at Kents Hill School

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Name</b>                                 |   |
| <b>Capacity in which you are responding</b> | Parent / Prospective Parent / Staff / LA representative / Trade Union official / Local school / Local Councillor / Neighbour / MP / Other |

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed change to the age-range at Kents Hill School and Nursery from ages 3-7 to 3-11

Delete as appropriate:      **Strongly Agree / Agree / Disagree / Strongly Disagree**

**Comments:**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Thank you for responding to our consultation**