



## **Consultation to open a new preschool as part of Sedgeberrow C of E First School.**

### **Proposal - To open a new preschool as part of Sedgeberrow C of E First School.**

This document contains information that will help you understand this considered change. If you require any additional information not included in this document, to enable you to make a response, please contact the school office.

<b>Consultation dates</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>
<b>Information Session and Q and A.</b>	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 3:20pm to 3.45pm in the school hall
<b>Address</b>	Sedgeberrow CE First School Main Street, Sedgeberrow, WR11 7UF  Tel : 01386 881391
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:office2@sedgeberrow.worcs.sch.uk">office2@sedgeberrow.worcs.sch.uk</a>

Dear Parents / Governors / Colleagues/ Stakeholders

This is a consultation paper on a proposal to open a new governor led preschool for three and four year old children at Sedgeberrow CE First School. (Sedgeberrow Preschool)

This document explains:

- Why we feel it is appropriate to open a new preschool at Sedgeberrow C of E First School
- The timescale for the consultation.
- Who is being consulted.
- What happens at the end of the consultation period.

### **Have your say**

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your response via the online form here:

<https://form.jotform.com/231103023490338>

Alternatively, a copy of the response form can be downloaded from the school website or if you are unable to access the online response form, please contact the school office for assistance.

**Responses must be received by noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

Yours sincerely

Phil Croke

Headteacher

Sedgeberrow C of E First School

## **Background information**

As many of you may well know, Sedgeberrow Playgroup sadly closed at Easter after decades of providing a preschool education for the local community.

We believe that our school has a responsibility to our community to replace that service.

Currently, Sedgeberrow C of E First School has no offer for three and four-year old children. Under this proposal, our aim is to enable three and four year olds to access preschool provision as part of Sedgeberrow C of E First School.

Since the 2006 Childcare Act, families with three and four year old children in England are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, beginning in the term after their third birthday and until the child reaches compulsory school age. This universal offer was introduced to support child development and school readiness. In 2013 this offer was extended to eligible families from the term following the child's second birthday.

## **The Proposal**

Our school governors feel that the time is right to consider the extension of our school to include a new preschool for three and four year old children from September 2023.

The school intends to open the preschool from 8.00am to 5.30pm

In order to do so, the Local Authority need to approve the provision.

Adding a preschool to the school and operating 3-4 year old provision as part of the maintained school will have a number of benefits:

- Providing a preschool age education offer will be a service for the community of Sedgeberrow Village and the surrounding area for those parents who wish their children to attend preschool.
- Our preschool will benefit from the resources available at the school including equipment, staff expertise and our grounds.
- The extension of provision for 3-4 year olds will also support the sustainability of Sedgeberrow C of E First School.
- Parents and carers will benefit from the opportunity to pay for services using online methods. Registration of all children will be consistent, as will tracking of attendance and attainment.
- The children will benefit from links to the school making transition more fluid.

If approved the new preschool would open and take effect from September 2023.

Admission into the preschool will be in line with the maintained preschool's admission policy. This change will have no impact to the admissions policy and criteria for Reception Class at Sedgeberrow C of E First School.

## **Evidence of Demand**

Governors have been part of the consideration of this change and the Full Governing Body has discussed and voted positively on the proposal.

We feel the take up of preschool places for three year olds from families living within Sedgeberrow village and surrounding areas will be high. This proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on other providers currently serving the wider area.

### **School Capacity**

Sedgeberrow First School is a popular school with 180 pupils on roll. It was rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in November 2016 and Excellent by SIAMS (Church Inspection) in 2019. The school would seek to employ a preschool manager and two other staff to work full time at the preschool to begin in September 2023.

No additional accommodation is required. The school would aim to hire an existing room from the village hall (The Betteridge Room) for the preschool provision. We would also use a designated outside space on the school grounds to ensure sufficient space to meet the Early Years Framework requirements.

### **How the decision will be made**

At the conclusion of this consultation period, the Governors will consider all views raised before deciding whether to make a formal approach to the County Council to open the preschool. The County Council will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

- Responses to the public consultation.
- The quality of education provision at the school.
- The ability of the school to manage the proposed change to support the continued improvements at the school.
- Demand for places at the school and in the local area.

### **Who is being consulted?**

This document will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending our school.
- The local community.
- Our parents, staff and governors.
- Staff and governors of other local schools.
- Local District and Parish Councillors.
- Other local providers.
- All other stakeholders.

## **What happens next?**

### **Consultation Phase – 28<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

During the consultation phase, anyone with an interest can express their views on the options expressed in this document. This document, and the meeting detailed on the cover, form part of this consultation.

### **Submission of formal proposal to Local Authority**

The governors will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period, a decision will be made whether to submit a formal proposal to Worcester Children First to open the 'governor led' provision of a Preschool as part of Sedgeberrow C of E First School.

Many thanks, in advance, for your time and support.

Phil Croke

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**