



St George's School Bourton

A Church of England School

Pickwick
Academy Trust



"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:16
Executive Headteacher Mrs Jill Farndale

Dear All,

Consultation about the proposal for Bourton and Zeals Pre-School to join St George's CE Primary School within Pickwick Academy Trust.

We have recently been in conversation with Bourton and Zeals Pre-school after they enquired about joining with St George's CE Primary School. This would in effect cause the school to become St George's CE Primary School and Pre School. The current pre-school provision would legally transfer to the school.

The Proposal

The purpose of this consultation is to provide information about our proposal and seek the views of the St George's families and wider community. Currently, St George's CE Primary School have children joining at the age of 4 years old with a separately run pre-school on the shared school site. Under the new proposal the age range of St George's CE Primary School will be lowered to accommodate 2 year olds and the pre-school would become part of the primary school. This change would be anticipated to come into effect from 1st September 2025.

Why are we proposing to lower the entry age of children joining our school?

The pre-school is currently run by a dedicated small team of staff, supported by volunteers, but their responsibilities are vast: creating policies, staff recruitment, managing safeguarding, fundraising, dealing with finances, health and safety and so on. The pre-school committee has therefore decided that it would be better supported moving forward if it were to become part of the school, and Pickwick Academy Trust.

The pre-school would be supported in all areas by an experienced organisation and surrounded by professionals who understand learning within Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It would make for an even smoother transition for children and families from the pre-school to Reception. It would also be greatly advantageous to the staff employed at the pre-school, providing them with additional support, guidance and opportunities.

We believe that it is really important for the community of Bourton that our pre-school and primary school both thrive and flourish. The conversion would complement our existing provision for children in our Reception class.

Please note that there is no automatic right for nursery aged children to gain a reception place at the school. Parents of nursery aged children would need to apply in the normal way for admission to the primary school.

Will the proposal have any impact on the school's admission arrangements?

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Telephone: 01747 840409

Email: office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

The current pupil admission number (PAN) at St George's CE Primary School is 17 in each year group: Reception to Year 6. This is not changing within this consultation.

Will the Pre School building change?

The FS1 provision will continue to be accommodated within the existing Pre School building, with the staff working alongside the current FS2 provision and Y1 classes. The pre-school children will have access to use the whole school site, including swimming pool, playground, field, hall and library as well as participating in events within the school building.

Responding to the Consultation

We believe that community input is essential for the success of this project. To ensure that the views of parents, guardians, staff and community members are fully considered, we invite you to participate in our consultation. You can email your comments to the school office: office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

Deadline for responses is Friday 21st March 2025

What do I need to do?

Responses will be received throughout the consultation period, which begins on Friday 14th February. These will be analysed and the results published on the school's website.

I have a question – who can I ask?

If you have any questions regarding the education consultation, please contact the Executive Headteacher (Mrs J Farndale) via the following email address: office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

The consultation Process:

Friday 14 th February 2025 – Friday 21 st March 2025	Public consultation period
April 2025	Consultation will be considered by Pickwick Academy Trust Board of Trustees and a decision made as to whether to proceed with an application to the Department of Education.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Jill Farndale
Executive Headteacher

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