



## Consultation on a proposal to open a pre-school within Caston CofE Primary Academy

### What is the proposal?

The Local Governing Body for the Dove Federation have met to discuss opening new pre-schools at Caston and Parker's CofE Primary Academies for children 3-4 years of age: [this consultation document relates to new provision at Caston.](#)

### What will the school pre-school provision look like?

Our intention is to open a pre-school within the current Reception class area, to create an EYFS unit.

### What are the benefits for the children, families and carers?

- Seamless integration into school life via pre-school (as opposed to another childcare provider) increases stability, security and confidence in the school environment and friendship groups
- Consistent high quality of education for little learners aged 3-5 years
- Continuity and consistency of high-quality teaching and learning, tracking long-term achievement
- Continuous high-quality care for children who may be vulnerable or have special education needs, including more able pupils
- Opportunities for a richer social development and interaction with a wider range of age groups in a rural area where such opportunities are limited
- Early professional support of the school, in a climate where other professionals (e.g. health visitors, speech and language therapists, GPs, dentists) have less and less contact with young people and their families
- Earlier access to a special educational needs coordinator, ensuring swift detection of emerging needs. Support can be put in place to help the child develop social skills, interact, get the most out of their play: a real advantage, going into formal schooling
- Children have earlier opportunities to develop early reading and mathematics skills within a broad and balanced early years curriculum
- Long term, supportive working relationships with a single school / setting from age 3-11: we will know families even better, enabling us to support each other earlier, and for longer
- Ensures children benefit from a joined-up approach for best practice, events, training, leadership and policy

### Benefits for leadership and governance:

- Promotes continuity and progression of learning between 3-11 years, via single leadership and vision
- Ensures continuity and consistency of policy and planning across key stages
- Supports the recruitment and retention of a strong governing body (parent governors may make an eight year investment into the life of the school)

- Further enhances consistency of approaches to inclusion and well-being, partnership working with agencies
- Gives early opportunity to spot and support SEN challenges that children may exhibit, advocating for them and their families
- Improves co-ordination and flexibility in the management of SEN benefits for staff and the school
- Gives opportunities for career development through the sharing of a wider range of expertise and possibilities for working from EYFS-KS2. Utilise staff knowledge, skills and specific expertise more fully across the school
- Allows continuous assessment, tracking and target-setting procedures for the entire EYFS and primary phases of education

## **Equality Act 2010**

In considering this proposal, the Diocese of Norwich Education & Academies Trust is mindful of its duty to have due regard to the need to: 1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; 2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and 3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender re-assignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

The Trust will be carrying out its own assessment of impact on the protected characteristics of a decision to move forward with the development of the 'all-through' school, but if there is anything related to this which you would like to draw to the Trust's attention, please do let us know via the online survey referred to on the final page.

## **Who will be consulted?**

Under section 16(1) of the Education & Inspections Act 2006, the Trust Board as the proposer of the planned change must consult:

- Parents/carers of children attending Caston CofE Primary Academy
- Local residents and stakeholders
- Department for Education
- Diocese of Norwich
- Norfolk County Council
- Regional School commission

## **Who will make the final decision and when could the change happen?**

The consultation will be open for one month, from 4 March until 4 April 2024.

The DNEAT Trust and Local governing body will review the results of the consultation and an application will be made to the Regional Schools Commissioner's office via the Headteacher Board to amend the age range of our school, dependent on the outcome of this consultation.

## **How can I learn more about this proposal and have my say?**

If you would like to discuss more about the proposals, please contact the school office.

We invite you to share your views by completing the online survey via the QR code below, or requesting a paper copy of the survey from the School Office, by calling in during school hours

Responses must be sent to us by 4pm on 4 April 2024.

*Thank you for your participation in this process.*

Caston C of E Primary Academy  
Pre-School provision consultation

