

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AGE RANGE AND ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS OF
PONTELAND COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL, PART OF PONTELAND ACADEMY TRUST
TO BECOME A PRIMARY SCHOOL**

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide information and allow stakeholders to comment on our proposals to change the age range and associated admission arrangements of Ponteland Community Middle School (PCMS) from 9 to 13 middle school age range to become a primary school for the age range 2 - 11.

2. Background

PCMS is an extremely successful 9 to 13 middle school in Ponteland, Northumberland. It is a well-regarded school with high academic performance, inspiring curriculum, specialist SEN and curriculum facilities, sporting provision, dedicated leadership and aspirational ethos where children thrive; and has received sustained praise from Ofsted.

We are an outward facing teaching school that works closely and positively with schools alongside the local and neighbouring authorities and are fully committed to retaining and developing those relationships throughout and beyond our consultation, regardless of the outcome.

Due to a number of factors, we have explored options to secure the school's future sustainability, so that the school's legacy will exist for future generations; and we, as Trustees, leaders and with advice from the DfE, have arrived at a decision that becoming a primary school will achieve this and fit with a two-tier school system.

Why change?

The reasons and drivers of change

- We have a responsibility as caretakers of Ponteland Community Middle School to ensure its legacy continues as a flourishing, highly achieving, community centred school.
- Due to parental demand, we explored the option of extending the age range upwards, however, Lord Agnew felt this carried too many risks.
- We must fall in line with the move to two-tier system in Ponteland.
- We want parents who have faced a period of uncertainty to have a stable pathway for their children within a cohesive education system in the heart of the community.
- As a self-governing Academy, outside of Local Authority control, it is incumbent upon the Trustees to determine how best to serve the local community. We see that the future is as a primary school, building on our highly successful ethos and KS2 achievements as a middle school with specialist facilities and provision, ensuring the children continue to thrive and school to flourish.

The benefits of change

- PCMS is a highly successful school. The school's ethos and aims, staffing, facilities and of course the students, make great learning prosper. As one of the highest achieving schools in Northumberland, governors and senior leaders believe PCMS as a primary school, will continue to ensure children achieve outstanding outcomes at KS2 giving them the framework to be very successful at KS3 and beyond.
- Our successful school ethos would be extended from current Y6 and Y5 to Y4, Y3, Y2, Y1, Reception and Nursery years.
- The proposal means that PCMS will offer nine years of schooling, supporting the needs of learners from age 2-11 (Nursery to Y6) ensuring each new generation of children will receive personalised provision, enriched curriculum, knowledge, skills, understanding and emotional maturity necessary to enable a fulfilling and happy life in our society.
- There will be clarity for parents regarding learning routes and secondary school places. The community would have stability, cohesion and certainty.
- Our Platinum Games-mark status fully utilises the 3G pitch and school site providing a wide variety of sports provision and community driven events to engage pupils, parents and community partners. We host a number of activities for younger children during school and holiday periods.
- We are keen for our primary school to offer specialist provision in terms of learning environment and subject expertise. We will retain dedicated science, PE, art, music and technology facilities that encourage children to be real scientists, athletes, artists, musicians and technicians throughout their time at the new primary school.
- Our site has potential to further develop outdoor learning and forest school experiences.
- We excel at delivering high quality pastoral and SEND provision and can expand this to ensure earlier identification and intervention making a difference sooner and utilising current facilities and specialist staff consolidating effective emotional, Thrive and wellbeing support programmes.
- Exciting, ambitious and creative teaching and learning will ensure that within a primary setting every child's learning journey will be memorable, happy and each individual's potential recognised.
- If, after consultation, the Trustees decide to proceed with the proposal a submission will be made to Lord Agnew, via our DfE colleagues, to change the age range category from middle to primary. If the application is approved, our ambition is to open as a primary in 2020 offering places for either 60 or 90 (two or three forms of entry) children in Nursery [from 2 years of age], Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6. The current children at PCMS are unaffected.

Curriculum

We have accessed specialist Early Years and KS1 expertise, training and support from experienced primary schools and MATs in preparation for this proposal. We have built strong relationships and good professional development networks and are confident in our delivery.

During the process of change, we will continue to deliver a challenging and engaging curriculum for all our pupils. We are committed to providing an outstanding education and platform for their future learning and will replicate our school ethos in everything we do.

In addition, we will continue to offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities before, during and after school.

Accommodation

Accommodation and facilities at PCMS are excellent. We have had up to 620 children on roll in previous years. The school is set on a pleasant site with extensive playing fields and large playground which support a full range of sports. The large Sports Hall enables games to continue in all weathers. The school has a large dining hall, 20 resourced, spacious classrooms; IT suite with up-to-date equipment including up to 100 iPads; and extensive specialist facilities for Design Technology, Food, Art, Music and Science. All classrooms are fitted with interactive whiteboards.

How will school admissions be managed?

Currently, our admissions are managed by Northumberland Local Authority. Places are allocated based on the admissions criteria, which take into account various factors such as 'looked after', SEND, medical, whether there are siblings at the school and distance from the applicant's front door to the school gate.

The admission arrangements for PCMS will be required to take account of the proposals to change to become a primary school. The new pupil admission numbers are, therefore, being consulted upon as part of this proposal and stakeholders are asked to consider a response to both by **12 noon, Thursday 31 January 2019**.

Ponteland Community Middle School

CONSULTATION ON:

1. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO ADMISSIONS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL PROVISION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY [from 2 years of age] TO Y6 [11 years] PROVISION FOR 2020.**
2. **PROPOSED 'VARIATION' TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020**

Introduction

PCMS is consulting on

1. an age range change from middle school (9-13) to become a primary school (2-11) alongside the associated
2. consultation for the required 'variation' to pupil admission numbers [PAN].

Currently, we are a middle school serving Years 5 to 8, ages 9 to 13, and proposing to become a primary school, offering Nursery provision through to Year 6 (2-11). This will mean that current pupil admission arrangements will need to be revised and, as the school is an academy and the Admissions Authority for the school, Trustees are also consulting on a proposed 'variation' admission arrangements for 2020, in line with the Admissions Code of Practice.

The school is not proposing any extension to its existing accommodation currently as PCMS has capacity for the admission number. We invite stakeholders to state their preferred choice of 60 or 90 as the admission number for children in each year group.

The Trustees will consider all responses regarding the proposed age range change and pupil admission number arrangements before making a final decision and deciding whether to submit the proposals to the DfE and the Secretary of State for Education. These arrangements will be conditional upon the Minister's approval to the changes in age range and pupil admission numbers.

The changes to age range and pupil admissions proposals take into account the changes to Ponteland educational provision and our duty of care to our current children;

- In order to be sustainable, we propose to fit in with two tier education provision.
- Applications will be open for admission to Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5; and will be limited once the consultation has concluded and the admission number (60 or 90 in each year group) agreed, as we change to a primary school.

Timeline for Ponteland Community Middle School changing to primary school:

Total children 2020/21: this is variable depending on consultation preference and final decision regarding viability and sustainability.

Year 7 and Year 8 pupil numbers are not included in this grid as these numbers are not part of this consultation.

Date	nursery	nursery	reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
At time of consultation								98	153
2019-2020								60/90	98
2020-2021	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90
2021-2022	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90
2022-2023	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90	60/90

How do I make my views heard?

The consultation process for Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN) proposal will run from **Thursday 20 December 2018 until 12.00 noon Thursday 31 January 2019.**

During the consultation periods, it is vital that we hear your views, answer your questions and look forward to open and honest conversation.

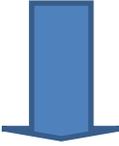
We want to hear and consider the views of:

- Current students;
- Parents of current students;
- Parents of students at other schools;
- Staff who work at the school;
- Staff who work at other schools;
- Local and neighbouring schools;
- Our local community, including pre-school groups and Early Years Providers, and our current site users;
- Governors including Headteachers at local and neighbouring schools;
- Local and neighbouring Local Authorities;
- The Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses; and
- other stakeholders

In order to engage in meaningful and informed consultation, we will be holding a consultation evening for stakeholders, as well as providing the opportunity for individuals and institutions to make written submissions about the proposals by using the form on **page 7.**

Evidence from the consultation will be collated into a Consultation Report which Trustees will consider prior to deciding whether to make a submission to the Secretary of State for Education, via the DfE. The Consultation Report will be published on the school website following Trustee approval.

If Trustees decide to pursue an age range change for PCMS to become a primary school, a submission will be made to the Secretary of State for Education requesting permission to make the change.

Date	Event
<p>20 December 2018</p> <p><u>Consultation Evening: 6pm, Monday 14 January</u></p> <p>Appointments can also be made for a one to one meeting with a senior leader.</p>	<p>Consultation Starts</p> <p>Consultation documents are available from school office and on school website</p> 
<p>Monday 7 January, 3.45pm</p>	<p>PCMS Staff</p> 
<p>Week beginning 7 January</p>	<p>PCMS pupils</p> 
<p>Monday 14 January 2019, 6pm</p>	<p>Consultation Evening</p> 
<p>Thursday 31 January 2019, 12 noon</p>	<p>Consultation on Age Range and Pupil Admission Numbers [PAN] Closes</p> 
<p>Monday 4 February 2019</p>	<p>Trustees decide whether to proceed with proposed changes and submission</p> 
<p>September 2020</p>	<p>Implementation of the changes commence</p>

YOUR VIEWS AND QUESTIONS ARE IMPORTANT

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR AGE RANGE CHANGE FROM MIDDLE TO PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION
AND PUPIL ADMISSION NUMBERS [PAN] ARRANGEMENTS FOR
PONTLAND COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL, CALLERTON LANE, PONTELAND, NE20 9EY**

Please take the time to read our consultation outline and complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is **very important** to us and we really appreciate you taking the time to complete the questionnaire. We would like to hear comments from as many people as possible. Please email completed questionnaires to admin@ponteland.academy or hand it in to the school office.

We are asking two questions and therefore consulting on two proposals:

- 1. The first proposal is a change from middle to primary school provision. This consultation timeline is for six weeks. Responses for age range change provision from middle school aged children to primary school aged children must be received by 12 noon, Thursday 31 January 2019.**
- 2. The second proposal is asking your opinion on how many children you would like to see in each year group. This consultation also lasts for six weeks. Responses for variation to pupil admission numbers (and you can choose between 60 or 90 children in each year group) must be received by 12 noon, Thursday 31 January 2019.**

1. From September 2020, should PCMS change its middle school age-range and provide primary provision from Nursery [aged 2-3, 3-4] to Year 6?	Yes	No	Don't know
2. Would you like to see 60 or 90 children in each year group? Please circle or make bold.	60 children in each year group	90 children in each year group	
Please reply by 12 noon, Thursday 31 January 2019.			
Please feel free to comment			
Please feel free to ask any questions			
You are welcome to enter your contact details if you would like further conversation			

We will analyse responses according to stakeholder group. Please tick all the boxes that apply to you in the list below.

	Parent of a pupil(s) currently attending PCMS
	Member of staff working at PCMS
	Member of staff working at other schools
	Parent of a child in Reception to Year 6 in Northumberland schools
	Parent of a child in Reception to Year 6 in Newcastle schools
	Governor, including Headteacher, at a Northumberland school
	Governor, including Headteacher, at a Newcastle schools
	Member of the local community
	Representative of the Local Authority
	Representative of a neighbouring Local Authority
	Representative of a Diocese
	Other (please specify)

Thank you for your response.

Please email your reply to admin@ponteland.academy or hand in to the school office. You are welcome to post it to school also:

**Ponteland Community Middle School
Callerton Lane
Ponteland
NE20 9EY**

01661 824853