

School Organisation Consultation

**Proposal to lower the age range of
Hurst Green Infant School &
Nursery**

June 2023



Introduction

1. This paper outlines a proposal to lower the age range of Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery, in Tandridge from 3 to 7 years to 2 to 7 years. The process and timescales are outlined below for the change of age range.

Background

2. Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery is a one form entry school in the district of Tandridge, rated Good by Ofsted in 2022. The school currently also offers childcare for 2 year olds under section 27 of the Education Act 2002 which enables Governing bodies of maintained schools to set up and run facilities and services whose provision furthers any charitable purpose for the benefit of (a) pupils at the school or their families, or (b) people who live and work in the area in which the school is situated.

Proposal

3. Surrey County Council and the Governing Body of Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery are proposing to lower the age range of Hurst Green Infant School in Tandridge from 3 to 7 years to 2 to 7 years.
4. This would mean that the current nursery provision for 2 year olds led by the Governing Body would become part of the maintained nursery managed by the school, under the same Ofsted registration as the school.

Why are we proposing to change the age range of Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery?

5. Surrey County Council and Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery propose to change the current section 27 2 year old provision to become part of the nursery that is under the same registration as the school and continues to provide a secure, stimulating, quality nursery provision for children in the local area. The nursery is currently meeting a need identified through the Surrey County Council Childcare Sufficiency assessment and will continue to do so under this proposal.
6. The 2 year old provision at Hurst Green Infants was initially set up under section 27 of the Education Act 2002 which allows schools to open and establish a nursery as a separate community provision. As the 2 year old places are now an integral part of the community, by lowering the school age the 2 year old children become pupils of the school and support more efficient governance and operational functions. This continues to support the government's policy on providing 15 and 30 hours Funded Early Education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in schools.

Vision Statement

7. Hurst Green Infant School's vision is to bring out the best in children by caring, learning and achieving together.

- Lowering the school age to incorporate the current 2 year old provision as part of the maintained school, will enable the school to build on and strengthen the arrangements already in place and provide a joined up approach to achieving our vision for all children from 2 to 7 years old. As nursery children will be on roll as part of the whole school, the systems and processes will be streamlined, enabling the school to deploy our resources across the nursery and school to ensure that every child realises their potential.

Why are we consulting now?

- The school wishes to rationalise the arrangements for all children in the nursery including 2 year olds.

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

- Currently we offer 30 reception places each year for local children. There are no planned changes to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 reception places.
- There are currently 4 part-time places for 2 year olds offered at the section 27 nursery at Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery. There is no change to how parents apply for a nursery place and information can be found on the school’s website [Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery \(hurstgreenschool.org\)](http://hurstgreenschool.org). Children who currently attend the nursery at the school will continue to attend the same setting with the same staff and do not need to reapply for a place under the new registration.
- The capacity in the school from year R to year 2 is not impacted by this consultation. The permanent capacity of the school from year R to year 2 is 90.

Table 1. Numbers on roll (Yr EY1 – Yr 2) at Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery (January 2023 census)

Year group	EY1 (3 year olds)	EY2 (4 year olds)	R	1	2
Number of Pupils	3	12	29	30	27

- Please note there is no automatic right for nursery aged children to gain a reception place at the school. The admissions criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools, along with other individual schools admissions criteria, in Surrey are published each year in the [schools admissions booklets](#). Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery can be found in the Primary School Booklet for Tandridge primary schools. Parents of children applying for a reception place would need to apply in the normal way for admission to the primary school whether their child attends the nursery provision or not.

Finance and Resourcing

14. There is no change to the Early Years pupil funding rates for the nursery as set by the Department for Education. However, it is proposed that from January 2024 the children in the 2 year old places will be registered on the school pupil census and the DfE funding will be allocated to Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery by Surrey County Council.

Capital planning and buildings

15. There is no requirement to amend the accommodation at the school as a result of this proposed change.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

16. It is proposed that the age range of the school be changed from 1 January 2024. The proposed changes require a period of consultation, the publication of Statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for All-age Learning if the proposal is to proceed.
17. The first stage of consultation will be informal and will open on 19th June 2023. During this period Surrey County Council and the school will share its proposals with the wider professional network, schools including headteachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies and with the staff and parents of the school subject to the proposals.
18. Following the informal consultation period, it is proposed to publish a Statutory Notice for a four-week period. The publication of Notices is when the local authority formally states that it intends to implement the proposed changes. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken. Following the consultation periods officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Education and All-age Learning. A decision is due on 31st October 2023.

Have Your Say

Surrey County Council and Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery would like to know what people in the area feel about the proposal. The consultation will open on 19th June 2023.

You can respond by:

a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website: www.surreysays.co.uk and searching for the school's consultation (school name or post code), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.

b) Completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document. You can email the form or print it, complete it, and send it back to the address below.

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Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk with the subject: FAO Hurst Green Infant Consultation

All responses must be received by 17th July 2023.

What happens next?

We will hold an online public meeting for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear the views that people have. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend, please email school.org@surreycc.gov.uk to register your interest and you will be sent a link to the online event. The online event will be held on the 28th June 2023 at 4:00 p.m., there will be a short presentation followed by questions and answers.

Please join to share your views and ask questions. You do not have to have a child at the school to join the meeting.

At the end of the consultation period, we will review all of the responses received and share these with the school and publish them on the Surrey Says website.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation we intend to publish a Statutory Notice at the school, in a local newspaper and on the Surrey Says website stating our intention to change the age range of Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery from 3 – 7 years to 2 – 7 years. There will be a four-week statutory consultation period for further representations to be received by the council.

All representations will be reviewed before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for All-age Learning Decisions at the decision meeting in September 2023.