



Date 7th June 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Consultation: Proposal to Change the age range for Cudham Church of England Primary School (the School) from 2 – 11 years to 4 – 11 years from September 2022.

The School is an academy within the Aquinas Church of England Education Trust (Aquinas).

This letter outlines the case for changing the age range for the School from 2 – 11 years to 4 – 11 years from September 2022 and how you can respond to the consultation which will run from Tuesday 7th June 2022 to Monday 4th July 2022. The deadline for responses is Monday 4th July 2022.

At present the age range of the School is 2 to 11 years and this consists of 36 preschool places for children aged 2 to 4 years and a published admission number (PAN) of 15 for each year group from reception to year 6 with a total pupil number of 105 reflecting an age range of 4 to 11 years.

The Government funds that element of the School which provides education for children of compulsory school age being reception to year 6, ages 4 to 11. The pre-school is funded through parental payments for the children who attend together with funding from the local authority in relation to 15 hours of pre-school care.

For the academic year 2022 – 2023, the School has only four confirmed children for the pre-school. The cost of maintaining the pre-school for four children is not financially viable for the School. As the pre-school is not a compulsory element of the School's provision, there is no way of forecasting whether numbers will improve in the future but it is unlikely to increase to 36 being the number of places that the pre-school is predicated on. Given its location and provision hours, the pre-school is not an attractive child care provision for working parents. Over the last 4 years the numbers in the nursery have been as follows:

2021 – 2022 – 10 children
2020 – 2021 – 17 children
2019 – 2020 – 16 children
2018 – 2019 – 24 children

In the circumstances, the Trust does not consider that the pre-school is sustainable. As a result, the Trust seeks to change the age range of the School to 4 to 11 enabling it to close the pre-school. This change does not impact on the School's admission arrangements for reception to year 6, for which there will continue to be a PAN of 15.

We would welcome your views and comments on this proposal and invite you to respond by Monday 4th July 2022:

- In writing to Consultation re Cudham, Aquinas Church of England Education Trust, Magpie Hall Lane, Bromley BR2 8HZ; or

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited
Registered Office: Bishop Justus Church of England School, Magpie Hall Lane, Bromley BR2 8HZ

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- By email to info@aquinatruster.org inserting Consultation re Cudham Church of England Primary School in the subject box.

Please provide details of you name and contact details to assist us in collating the responses. Whilst all responses will be acknowledged, it will not be possible to correspond with individual respondents. However, the School and Aquinas websites will be updated with information on the progress of the consultation process. Depending on the number of responses a public meeting may be held and the date will be notified in due course.

At the conclusion of this consultation the Trustees of Aquinas will decide which will include a review of the responses received. This decision will be published on the Aquinas and the School websites.

We look forward to receiving your comments

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Griffiths".

Kathy Griffiths
CEO of Aquinas