

Equality Impact Assessment

Title: Consultation on the proposed change of age range at Armathwaite School

Lead Officer and Directorate: Andy Smart - People

Cabinet Member: Sue Sanderson

What is the EIA about? (Executive Summary):

This EIA assesses the risks associated with a proposed change of age range at Armathwaite School from the current range of 4 to 11 to a new range of 3 to 11.

The closure of the privately run Armathwaite Nursery Group, sited on the grounds of Armathwaite School, will lead to a shortage of nursery places in the area which will be mitigated by the proposed age range change at Armathwaite School.

Background:

Armathwaite School is situated within the North Eden Sure Start Children's Centre footprint and some data reported in this EIA relates to this geographical area. Children's Centre Footprint profiles can be found at <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/childrens-centre-footprint-profiles/>

5.9% of all pupils are from a Black Minority Ethnic (BME) background (January 2020 School Census) and there are 77 languages spoken in Cumbria's schools. Carlisle has the largest proportion of pupils who speak English as an Additional Language.

In relation to overall levels of deprivation, the 2019 IMD classified the area where Armathwaite School is located as sitting within decile 6 (within the 50-60% least deprived of communities in England). In relation to geographical barriers to services, the 2019 IMD classified the area where the school is located as sitting within decile 2 (within the 10-20% most deprived of communities in England).

Pupils with SEND will be supported through the school's existing policies.

The proposal to change age range would allow Armathwaite School to formalise the operation of governor-led childcare through the establishment of a maintained nursery. As the nursery operates from a site on the school grounds there will be minimal disruption for children and no additional transport requirements. Teaching arrangements may change to cover the additional age range and special needs requirements. CCC officers will support the school through the process.

Staff of the Armathwaite Nursery Group have accepted redundancy from their current employment.

Actions proposed to address any implications:

HR providers and CCC officers will provide support through the transition should the proposal progress. School policies will apply.

Recommendation:

That the age range at Armathwaite School should be amended to allow the set-up of a nursery at the school thereby mitigating the loss of nursery places in the area through the closure of Armathwaite Nursery group.

Assistant Director responsible for EIA – Dan Barton.