

08 February 2021

Dear Acorns parent

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council has a statutory duty to ensure all children have a suitable education.

The Governing Body of The Acorns Primary and Nursery School has requested the Council take the necessary steps to remove the 'resourced provision' for children with Complex and Multiple Learning Difficulties (CMLD) currently provided in a specially resourced seven-place unit at the school. The unit has vacant places and will cost the school more to run than it receives in funding, this means it would have to be subsidised from the main school's budget. The Council does not believe demand for places in the unit will increase as there are alternative ways, which better meet parent's preference, in which the children who might have once attended the unit can receive a suitable education.

### **The Consultation**

The purpose of this informal consultation is to seek the views of all interested parties on a proposal to remove the resourced provision for children with CMLD from the school from September 2021.

This consultation will run from 08 February to midnight 14 March 2021. It is an opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and to ensure these are taken into account in the decision-making.

### **How to give your views**

Please take the opportunity to read the full consultation document that is available on the Council's website at:

[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/theacornsconsultation](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/theacornsconsultation)

If your child is currently in school you can request the school send a printed copy of the consultation document home to you. Everybody is welcome to submit comments on this proposal in a number of ways:

- completing the online survey at:  
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheAcornsConsultation/>
- or emailing your comments to:  
[schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
- or by sending a letter or a copy of the feedback form in the consultation document to:  
School Planning and Policy, Cheshire West & Chester Council,  
(Floor 3, Nicholas House), 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

- if you would prefer to have a discussion about this proposal with a member of the Council's staff and a representative of the school this can be arranged using MSTeams. Please email [schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) before 22 February to arrange a meeting between 02 Tuesday March to 04 Thursday March. Council officers and school representatives will be available to answer questions and to note any comments that you would like to feedback.

**All feedback should be submitted by the deadline of midnight 14 March 2021**

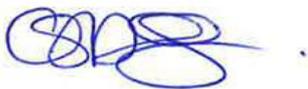
### **What happens next?**

Council Officers will then take into consideration all the consultation responses received before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If so, a statutory Public Notice will be published, setting out Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council's intent to remove the resourced provision from the school. It is anticipated that this will be published in April 2021.

After the date of publication there will be a four-week period in which anyone can make a representation to the Council. After considering all representations the Council will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made by August 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Carolyn Davis  
Senior Manager Education Infrastructure