

## Central Bedfordshire Schools

# How to change your school age range

Academies and maintained schools that are considering a change of age range are required to follow the relevant guidance from the Department for Education.

### Consultation

For maintained schools, some age range changes require a statutory consultation process. Other changes may be effected outside of a statutory process but the DfE still expects appropriate local consultation and liaison with parents and other stakeholders, including the Diocese. For academies, there is also an expected framework of consultation.

### Approvals and consents

After consulting parents and other stakeholders, some changes can be approved by the governing body of a school or the trustees of an academy, but others require either the permission of Central Bedfordshire Council (maintained schools) or the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner (academies).

***DfE guidance for academies and maintained schools sets out that any changes to age range also require the consent of the religious authority (the Diocesan Board of Education).***

### Guidance

The processes for statutory consultation and the principles governing non statutory consultation, along with details of the necessary consents, are set out in the relevant DfE guidance documents:

- **DfE statutory guidance for maintained schools:**  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-organisation-maintained-schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-organisation-maintained-schools)
- **Guidance for academies:**  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-significant-changes-to-an-existing-academy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-significant-changes-to-an-existing-academy)

***For advice from the Schools Team about proposed age range changes in Central Bedfordshire schools, contact us initially through our dedicated email [cbc@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:cbc@stalbans.anglican.org)***