Proposal to remove the designated special education provision at Cedars Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation Regulations 2013, that Milton Keynes Council, Saxon Court, 502 Avebury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3HS intends to make a prescribed alteration to Cedars Primary School (community school), Bury Street, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, MK16 0DT from 1 September 2016.

The council proposes to remove the designated special educational needs (SEN) status at Cedars Primary School which means that the school will no longer reserve places in its nursery for children, aged 3-5, with SEN or additional needs. This does not affect children already at the nursery and the school will continue to operate a nursery class.

The purpose of a specialist provision in a nursery is to intensively support children with complex SEN needs to enable them to integrate into a mainstream school. However, places are expensive and limited, with less than 10% of children who would qualify for this provision being able to access it. The majority of pre-school children with complex SEN needs are therefore already catered for within mainstream early years provision. In addition to this it has been found in Milton Keynes that children who attend a nursery with specialist provision are more likely to transfer into specialist provision rather than into mainstream provision.

There is no statutory duty to provide specialist provision within mainstream nursery classes, and due to the pressures on all schools’ budgets (the Dedicated Schools Grant), the council has decided to withdraw place funding for this specialist provision, and to stop automatic funding of transport costs to the provision. The council will instead ensure that appropriate support is available to all early years providers who have children with special educational needs.

This Notice is an extract of the complete proposal which is available online at: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations, or can be obtained from: Mrs Susie Morrissey, Strategic Lead, Education Sufficiency and Access. Milton Keynes Council, Saxon Court, 502 Avebury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes. MK9 3HS. Tel: 01908 258035. Email: sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may support, object or make comments by submitting an online form at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations, or by emailing sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk, or in writing to the above address. The closing date for comments is 11 May 2016.

Signed: Marie Denny, Head of Service, Education Sufficiency and Access
Date: 13 April 2016