



Fyfield Pre-School

Caring • Learning • Growing

Fyfield Pre-School

Local Plan

Business Proposal

Fyfield Pre-School, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

www.fyfieldpreschool.co.uk

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Registered Charity No. 1048611 Registered by OfSted - EY269973

Fyfield Pre-School would like to put forward a proposal for new purpose built premises to be included in the development plan for Fyfield. The premises would be purpose built for use by Fyfield Pre-School in order to continue to offer the unique service we currently provide to the residents of Fyfield and the surrounding villages for years to come, and to meet the increased demand for such services given the current residential development being undertaken in the locality.

History and Information Regarding Fyfield Pre-School

Fyfield Pre-School is a not-for-profit, charity organisation which has existed in Fyfield and served the local community since 1995. This proposal is being put forward by the Fyfield Pre-School Committee, which has overall responsibility for the pre-school.

The Pre-School currently has eight members of staff and is managed by Lisa Carey. All staff attend regular up-to-date training with Essex county council. All staff have safeguarding qualifications and paediatric first aid training. We also have health and safety officers, special educational needs co-ordinators and equal opportunities co-ordinators, as well as specialised training in childcare.

We currently have 36 children on role, between the ages of 2 - 4 years. We open term time only between the hours of 9am to 3pm. The children go outside in the garden every day and we also enjoy taking them to the park and to see the ducks and on country walks. We present a Christmas show, an Easter parade, sports day and leavers ceremony where parents attend. We also have various parties for the children where parents come in to help and we have a yearly school trip. We have additional teachers that come into preschool to teach French, sports skills and music.

The Pre-School is registered with and regulated by Ofsted and was awarded a 'Good' rating in April 2016 following inspection. A substantial amount of investment has been made over the last 18 months in respect of the equipment available for use by the pre-school, with continued investment also being put in to further staff training and career development. The Pre-School is also registered with the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

There are a shortage of pre-school providers serving the rural villages surrounding Fyfield. Whilst there are a number of private nurseries in and around Ongar and out towards the larger areas of Chelmsford, Brentwood and Harlow, Fyfield Pre-School is one of only a few settings in the local area that offer affordable pre-school education. The Pre-School offers Government funding for eligible pupils from the age of two, and for all pupils from the age of three. The Pre-School is able to offer qualifying parents up to 30 free hours a week in accordance with the most recent changes to funding. For fee-paying pupils, the pre-school currently charges just £5 per hour, which makes the pre-school an extremely affordable early years setting for many families.

The Pre-School is independent and committee run. The Pre-School is a not-for-profit charity organisation which means that all monies received can be invested in to the day to day running of the school as well as improving the facility through such expenditures as the renewal of equipment, staff training and activities for the children.

Current Location of Fyfield Pre-School

Fyfield Pre-School currently operates from the Scout HQ in Houchin Drive. The premises is leased from the 1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and the area is shared in use with the various clubs that make up the Scout Group. This means that the pre-school currently has to operate on a pack-away basis and as such, we are restricted in the way in which we can use the space and in the activities and facilities that we can offer the children.

At one time, the Pre-School operated from a space within Dr Walkers Primary School but this arrangement ended when the school required the space to cater for an increased number of students.

The current premises is not ideally suited for use by the pre-school due not only to the restrictions caused by being a shared space, but also on the size of the premises and therefore the number of pupils that the pre-school can accommodate. The Pre-School has already seen demand for places grow with more children attending the pre-school than in recent years, and yet more enquiries for places every week.

In addition to the current demand for pre-school places, with the development of new residential properties in and around Ongar, Fyfield, The Rodings and the surrounding villages, it is anticipated that a greater number of families will be seeking pre-school places. If Fyfield Pre-School continues to operate from its current premises, we will be unable to provide such places. This will result in families having little or no affordable early years facilities on offer in the local area

as the nearest alternatives are almost all private nurseries which charge higher fees and do not operate on the basis of an academic year, meaning that families need to meet the cost of such settings all year round.

Proposal

It is proposed that as part of the development plans in Fyfield, provision is made for a purpose built pre-school to be included in the development for use by Fyfield Pre-School. The premises would need to be of a sufficient size and include an outside area. Fyfield Pre-School would lease the premises from the Council on an affordable basis reflecting the pre-school's position as a not-for-profit registered charity providing essential early years education at an affordable price to the residents of Fyfield and the surrounding areas. The lease would be granted on a long term and continuing basis.

If this proposal is adopted then it is anticipated that the pre-school can achieve the following outcomes:

- To continue to provide affordable and accessible early years education for the children of Fyfield and the surrounding areas, and to meet the increasing demand for places in such a setting in light of the new residential developments already undertaken and planned for the near future.
- As an established early years setting which has operated in Fyfield for over twenty years, if allowed to operate from a purpose built premises, it is anticipated that the

Pre-School could achieve its full potential and receive an Outstanding rating from Ofsted. This would mean that the Pre-School would serve the community by providing not only affordable but also outstanding early years education to the local children in preparation for starting primary school.

- As a registered charity, if the pre-school were able to operate from premises in which we were the sole users, we would be able to apply for a number of grants and bursaries that are currently not available due to the shared nature of our current premises with another registered body.

Summary

Fyfield Pre-School is a unique not-for-profit charity setting which provides affordable early years education for children in Fyfield and the surrounding areas. As an established and long running setting, the Pre-School has gone from strength to strength and attracts a large number of pupils from the local area. Since its inception, the Pre-School has become a registered setting and has achieved a Good rating from Ofsted in its current premises. The Pre-School is recognised in the area as being a fantastic setting for young children preparing for the start of primary education. However, the Pre-School is currently restricted in realising its full potential due to the shared nature of the current premises it operates from and, with increasing demand being placed on the number of children seeking to attend the Pre-School as a result of residential development in the local areas, the Pre-School is fast approaching a situation in which it will not be able to accommodate all of the children requiring affordable early years education in the locality. If this were to happen then local families would find themselves with no affordable early years settings available in the area and as a result, children could miss out on attending such a setting which could negatively impact their educational and social development. If our setting were unable to develop in order to meet the growing demand for places then this could result in children being denied the opportunity of affordable early years education in the area.

Key Points

- Fyfield Pre-School is a unique setting with an established business model and proven longevity as an early years provider
- Fyfield Pre-School provides affordable early years education on an academic model
- Fyfield Pre-School is able to provide 30 hours of free provision to qualifying parents
- Fyfield Pre-School provides an early years setting in an area where there is a shortage of such settings
- Fyfield Pre-School is unable to meet the increased demand for places in its current premises
- If Fyfield Pre-School continues to operate from its current premises, families in Fyfield and the surrounding villages will be denied access to the provision of affordable early years education, which may result in the negative outcome of some children not attending an early years setting prior to starting primary school