

Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust)
**Consultation on the proposal to change the age range at Ridgeway Middle School to an
11-16 secondary school**

The Proposal

Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) is proposing to change the age range of Ridgeway Middle School from the present 9-13 years to a secondary age range 11-16 years (years 7-11) from September 2015. The capacity of the academy will change to 450 (from the current 480) pupils and in order to facilitate this, the Published Admission Number (PAN) will be reduced to 90 pupils for years 7-11.

The Purpose of the Consultation Document

The purpose of this document is to provide information on a proposal to change age range of Ridgeway Middle School from 9-13 years to 11-16 years from September 2015, to create a full secondary provision.

As part of this consultation we would also like to propose that Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) becomes Ridgeway Academy (operated by Ridgeway Academy Trust) and changes its Published Admission Number from 480 to 450 pupils.

Background

Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) opened as an academy on 1st December 2012 and provides pupils with an extensive curriculum taught by specialist staff. We are an inclusive school, valuing and respecting everyone equally. We teach our pupils to set high expectations for themselves and to show compassion towards others. As such our pupils leave our school as enthusiastic and independent learners and are fully prepared for the next phase of education.

Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) has delivered Public Examinations for the last three years and has secured good results in these areas compared with national averages. Ridgeway has secured two consecutive 'Good' judgements in recent Ofsted inspections and is consistently above the floor targets set by the DfE.

Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) works closely with several local First Schools (Astwood Bank First School Academy, Webheath First School Academy, Feckenham First School and Crabbs Cross Academy) and would look to extend this working partnership in the future for the benefit of the local children, families and communities. We believe that that the local schools working together is key to the success of all of the local schools.

Objectives of the proposal

- To ensure parents have access to a coherent and well-planned education structure with a single age of transfer between all schools in the local community.
- To engage in determined collaborative working partnerships between and among phases with a view to enhancing the sharing of specialist provision with our local partner schools.
- To provide and sustain the highest standards of education whilst maintaining the nurturing and well-being of all children.
- Provide specialist teaching areas across the curriculum. In conjunction to this our staff will know pupils personally and therefore guide and support the young adults in an nurturing and academic environment
- To ensure sustained progress in all subject areas by offering both consistency and expertise.
- To ensure that all of the schools involved in the proposal, work positively as partners to ensure a high quality and localised educational provision.
- To ensure that all of the schools involved in the proposal offer children and young people a broad, balanced and cohesive curriculum that meets the needs of all.
- To offer all children and young people an exciting and innovative curriculum provision that meets a full range of diverse needs and supports every child / young person to achieve their full potential.
- To inform parental choice with regard to the variety of options and opportunities that are being offered.
- To forge innovative links with excellent post 16 provision ensuring smooth transition for future educational provision.

The changes:

There are two proposed changes:

1. Change the age range of Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) from the present middle school age range of 9-13 years to a secondary school age range of 11-16 years.
2. Change the Published Admission Number (PAN) to 90 pupils for Years 7-11 (450 pupils in the school)

Implementing the age range changes

Currently, Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) has the following pupils on role:

Year	Number on roll
5	150
6	143
7	90
8	79

We are seeking to offer continuity of learning throughout the secondary stage of schooling and in particular to maintain our levels of provision through the entire National Curriculum phases known as Key Stages 3 & 4. The stage encompasses years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Currently pupils in this locality have to change school mid-way through this vital Key Stage. Our proposal to admit pupils into the school at age 11, would bring us in line with the national norm and reflect what some of the local High schools and some First Schools are proposing.

During the change of status, Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) will work closely with our partner schools to ensure pupil placements throughout this process.

Numbers on Roll – changes from September 2015 onwards

	September 2014	September 2015	September 2016	September 2017	September 2018	September 2019	September 2020
Year 5	145	145					
Year 6	140	145	145				
Year 7	90	120	120	110	90	90	90
Year 8	70	70	100	90	90	90	90
Year 9			70	90	90	90	90
Year 10				70	90	90	90
Year 11					90	90	90
Totals	445	480	435	360	450	450	450

Notes: Shaded areas in table above denote no children in that year group in that year

Process of Consultation

In order to engage in meaningful and informed consultation, we will be holding a number of consultation events to engage with all stakeholders, as well as providing the opportunity for individuals and institutions to make written submissions about the proposals.

The period of consultation for the changes to the age range of Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust) will run from Monday 2nd June 2014 until 12 noon on Friday 27th June 2014.

The period of consultation for the Published Admission Number (PAN) will run from Monday 2nd June 2014 until 12 noon on Friday 25th July.

We want to continue working closely with our local schools in the area for the benefit of our immediate community and the wider area. We are genuinely interested in your thoughts and opinions and will ensure that all comments are put forward under this consultation. To this end, the school will host a meeting in the hall on Monday 16th June 7pm. Information will be displayed on our website <http://www.ridgeway.worcs.sch.uk> under the Community section and electronic feedback can be sent to agechange@ridgeway.worcs.sch.uk . Written feedback can be sent to the school marked 'age range change consultation'.

All of this information will be collated for the governors meeting week commencing 7th July 2014 where they will decide whether or not to make a submission to the Secretary of State.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Bennett
Head teacher

The following questions will be helpful for our consultation report, but please do not feel obliged to answer them if you do not wish to. The information may help us when considering your opinions and to make sure we are getting views from all sections of the community.

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF RIDGEWAY
MIDDLE SCHOOL
FROM 9–13 YEARS TO 11–16 YEARS
Consultation Response Form**

The statements on this form are provided to help you respond to the Consultation document. You do not have to respond to them all. If you prefer not to use this form, you can also put your views in a letter or an email.

Letters and forms should be returned to Ridgeway Middle School (Ridgeway Academy Trust), Evesham Road, Astwood Bank, Redditch, Worcestershire, B966BD.

Emails can be sent to agechange@ridgeway.worcs.sch.uk

To be considered, responses must be received by midday on **Friday 27th June 2014**

Statements relating to the proposals

Please tick one box for each statement, as appropriate.

1) I support the proposed changes to the age range at Ridgeway Middle School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

2) I support the 1 September 2015 date for the age range change at Ridgeway Middle School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

Additional comments:

