CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO LOWER THE AGE RANGE OF NEWLANDS SPRING PRIMARY SCHOOL, DICKENS PLACE, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, CM1 4UU FROM 4 – 11 YEARS TO 3 – 11 YEARS

PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
The purpose of this consultation document is to provide information relating to a proposal for a change in the provision of childcare and education to the community of Newlands Spring and the surrounding area based on the Newlands Spring Primary School site. It is a proposal to open a nursery class in the building currently used by Newlands Spring Pre-School. This would in effect lower the age range of Newlands Spring Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years. The vision is to offer a comprehensive wrap around childcare and education service provision for the age group 3-11 years.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROPOSAL
The trustees of Attain Academy Partnership and the Local Governing Board of Newlands Spring Primary School have agreed the following objectives:
• To ensure high quality, inclusive early years and foundation stage provision is available to the community of Newlands Spring and its surrounding area;
• To ensure free entitlement for eligible three and four-year olds is available flexibly and extended across the school day and school holidays to meet the needs of working parents in Newlands Spring and its surrounding area.

BACKGROUND
The lease on the building for the current pre-school will expire at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Newlands Spring Primary School proposes to take back the use building and to offer a nursery class (age 3-4) as part of their Early Years Foundation Stage provision.

CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION
Newlands Spring Preschool currently offers Early Years educational provision for children from the age of 2 years up to 4 years. The provision can be either funded or non-funded depending upon age, family circumstances and the number of hours attended. They offer spaces to children who are eligible for two year funding.

Sessions are offered for each weekday morning and afternoon Monday – Friday. There are two sessions:
• 8.30am – 11.30am
• 12.00pm – 3.00pm

Typically, older children (3-4 years) attend the morning session and younger children (2-3 years) tend to attend the afternoon session. Up to 25 children can attend each session. Lunchtime provision is offered for those children who are eligible for 30 hour finding. Before and afterschool provision is not offered.

Newlands Spring Primary School currently offers educational provision for children from the age of 4 -11, from reception to year 6. There is also a breakfast and afterschool club (Springers) which offers 45 places for 4-11 year olds. There are holiday clubs every half term, during the Easter holidays and for three weeks in the summer holidays.

PROPOSAL
The proposal would be to offer a comprehensive wrap around childcare and education service provision for the age groups of 3 years – 11 years.

Nursery: The provision of a nursery class would aim to meet local demand for this provision. It is possible that numbers would drop initially but with the addition of before and after school provision and a holiday club this would be a different provision from that currently offered so may meet the needs of additional working families. 30 hr places would also be offered with the option of paying for lunchtime provision as well.
The morning session would be 8.45am – 11.45am.
The afternoon session would be 12.30pm – 3.30pm.
Children would be able to attend mornings only (15hrs), afternoons only (15hrs) or mornings and afternoons (30hrs). If attending for 15 hours parents would have the opportunity to pay for a lunchtime hot lunch and supervision as an ‘add-on’. If attending for 30 hours parents would have the choice of either taking their child home for lunch or paying an additional fee for a hot lunch and lunchtime supervision.

The nursery provision would have maximum numbers set within national guidelines (i.e. 26 children in each group per session).

Staffing: The nursery class will require a qualified teacher and appropriately qualified teaching assistant(s).

Term Time Before / After School Care.
A provision would be offered for term time weekday before and after school care for age range 3-4yrs from 7.30am – 8.45am and 3.30 - 6.00pm. A maximum number of 26 would be set. There would be a charge for this service.

Holiday Club
In line with Springers provision, there will be holiday provision in each half term, during the Easter holidays and for three weeks in the summer holidays.

ACCOMMODATION
The nursery class will use the building currently used by Newlands Spring Pre-School.

ADMISSION
It is important to note that attendance/enrolment in the nursery will be distinct and separate and have no relevance to admission in Newlands Spring Primary School for which a separate application will have to be made in accordance with the Local Authorities co-ordinated admissions arrangements.

Admissions for the Nursery class – Parents will be required to complete an application form requesting a place for the academic year in which their child becomes 4 years old. Applications will be considered early in the preceding summer term and confirmed by the Local Governing Body. Applications will be considered in accordance with the admissions criteria, which will be in line with the admissions criteria for Newlands Spring Primary School.

Waiting list – The nursery will keep a waiting list which will be used to fill casual vacancies occurring as a result of an enrolled child leaving during the academic year or withdrawing from a place that has been offered. The list will be compiled in accordance with the Admissions Criteria.

NEXT STEPS - CONSULTATION
The local governing body are keen to listen to the thoughts of the local community regarding this proposal. If you have any comments you wish to share or queries we may be able to answer for you please email them to nurseryconsultation@newlandsspring.essex.sch.uk marking your email ‘Newlands Spring Nursery Consultation’. The local governing body will make a decision by the end of the Spring Term 2020 as to whether or not they wish to proceed with this proposal. Please ensure we have received your comments by 21st February 2020 to ensure they are taken into account in the decision-making process. If the governing body and trustees decide to move forward with this proposal an application to extend the age range of the school will be made to the Department for Education.

KEY DATES
• Consultation Process from 6th January 2020 – 21st February 2020
• Open Forum on Thursday 16th January from 3.30pm – 4.30pm in Newlands Spring Primary School (opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions etc.)
• Newlands Spring Primary Governors to consider options and recommendations on 11th March 2020
Attain Academy Partnership Trust Board make final decision 1st April 2020