

Public Consultation – Summer 2022

Proposed Change of Age Range of Crown Meadow First School and Nursery

The four-week representation period commences on Friday 24th June 2022 and closes **at noon on Friday 22nd July 2022**. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to this proposal do so within this timeframe to allow their comments to be considered by the decision maker.

Responses can be made on-line via the following link:

[Submit a response](#)

Should you require a paper copy of this survey, please contact
spp@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Introduction

Worcestershire County Council in agreement with the Governing Body of the school is proposing to change the age range of Crown Meadow First School and Nursery from 3-9 to 2-9 to extend their maintained nursery provision to two-year-olds. The proposal has met the criteria for a significant change and therefore public notice of this proposed change must be issued. This document helps to explain the background to the proposal and the final steps of this process.

- What is proposed
- Why it is being proposed
- Details of how the decision will be made
- How to submit a response

School details

Address	Crown Meadow First School and Nursery, Birmingham Road Alvechurch, Birmingham B48 7TA
Status	Community School
Ofsted Rating	Good (November 2021)
Current age range	3-9
Proposed age-range	2-9

Background information

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to secure, as far as is reasonably possible, early years education provision that is of good quality, accessible, flexible, inclusive and provided through a range of settings to meet parental demand for childcare for children aged two, three and four.

Since the 2006 Childcare Act, families with three-and four-year-old children in England are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, beginning in the term after their third birthday and until the child reaches compulsory school age. This universal offer was introduced to support child development and school readiness. In 2013 this offer was extended to eligible families from the term following the child's second birthday.

Maintained Community schools can operate nursery provision for children two to four years of age. Crown Meadow First School and Nursery currently offers early education places for

three- and four-year olds as part of their maintained age range of the school, meaning the provision is teacher led and students are considered as pupils of the school. Under this proposal, the provision would be extended to also enable two-year olds to access this provision.

What is proposed

The Governing Body and school leadership feel that the time is right to consider the extension of their school nursery class for two-year-olds alongside provision for three- and four-year olds. In order to do so, the Local Authority must lower the age range of Crown Meadow First School and Nursery by one year; from 3-9 to 2-9 from September 2022.

Admission into the nursery will be in line with the maintained nursery school's admission policy. This change will have no impact to the admissions policy and criteria for reception.

Why is it being proposed

Changing the age range of the school and operating two-year-old provision as part of the maintained school will have a number of benefits:

- Children attending the two-year old provision can be integrated fully into the school community. Parents and carers will benefit from the opportunity to pay for services using online methods. Registration of all children will be consistent, as will tracking of attendance and attainment.
- The extension of provision for 2 year olds will support the sustainability of the nursery provision at Crown Meadow First School and Nursery.

Crown Meadow First School and Nursery undertook an informal consultation in April-May 2022 in order to inform the decision of the Governing Body to propose this change to the Local Authority. The consultation was transparent with a one-month public consultation period for stakeholder responses to be made. There were online and paper copy versions of the consultation available from the school and an online event was held where interested parties could ask questions directly about the proposal.

The Governing Body of Crown Meadow First School and Nursery and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education considered these responses and it was agreed to progress this proposal to formal consultation. Full details on this decision can be viewed [here](#).

The senior leadership of Crown Meadow First School and Nursery have significant combined early years knowledge including a Head of School Development with substantial early years experience and a highly qualified Early Years Lead already in post. Crown Meadow First School and nursery received an Ofsted judgement of 'good' in a full inspection in June 2012. Ofsted have since visited the school twice, once in 2016 and once in November 2021. On both occasions the school was reconfirmed to be a 'good' school. The most recent Ofsted report following inspection in November 2021 made particular reference to the caring nature of the school, promoting 'values of empathy, diversity, curiosity, independent and resilience from when children start in Nursery. As a result, relationships between adults and pupils are

respectful.’ Moreover, the report emphasises that ‘Children in Nursery get off to a good start’ which ‘prepares them well for the next stage of their education’.

The approach of the school to current early years education, as evidenced within these Ofsted reports, provides confidence that the school have the ability to deliver an appropriate and effective early education environment for two-year-olds. Moreover, the provision of two-year-old places within maintained nursery schools, which are subject to full consultation and public notice to determine any changes, secures this provision for communities.

No additional accommodation is required to support this change as the existing room will be used with minor amendments to adjust for the change in age range and ensure sufficient space for statutory space standards to meet the Early Years Framework requirements.

The school has a clear established commitment to working with other early years providers in transition, mid-year changes and will continue to work with schools as children begin their reception year. The school are also committed to working with other early years providers to ensure any child who splits funding is able to do so. This includes working with the Local Authority and private providers to ensure moderation of data and to ensure children receive a balanced education.

How the decision will be made

The four-week representation period commences on Friday 24th June 2022 and closes at noon on Friday 22nd July 2022. A Public Notice has been issued in the local newspaper, as well as around the school and in the local area.

The following stakeholders will also be directly notified:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the school
- Staff and Governors of the school
- Neighbouring schools and early years providers
- Local, District and County Councillors
- Immediate neighbours
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Education
- Any other known local stakeholders

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Local Authority will consider all responses to this Public Notice. Any objections to the proposal will be considered by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education before a final decision is made as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

How to submit a response

Responses can be made on-line via the following link and must be received by **noon on Friday 22nd July 2022**.

[Submit a response](#)

Should you require a paper copy of this survey, please contact spp@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk