

Highfield Nursery School

Proposal to alter the age range

March 2025



Introduction

Birmingham City Council (the Council), as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to:

- Alter the lower age limit from 2 years to become 9 months
- Effective from 1st September 2025

Type:	Local Authority Nursery School		
Name:	Highfield Nursery School	DFE:	330/1010
Address:	Highfield Road, Saltley, Birmingham, B8 3QU		
Ward:	Alum Rock	Constituency:	Ladywood
Age Range:	2-5	Sixth Form:	NA
Gender:	Mixed	Capacity:	112 FTE
Last Ofsted:	November 2023	Ofsted Rating	Good

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The school currently has 224 PTE places for early years provision which starts at 2 years old. Due to the government initiative and the expansion of the working families' childcare offer, the 30 hours entitlement is now available for children aged 9 months onwards from September 2025.

The governing body of Highfield Nursery School have agreed to consult on the proposal to extend the nursery provision to include children from 9 months of age.

The key reasons for this decision include:

1. **Increasing Demand for Infant Childcare:** Families within the local area have expressed the need for earlier childcare support, particularly for working parents requiring childcare from infancy.
2. **Enhanced Early Years Development:** Research supports the benefits of structured early learning from infancy, providing children with a strong foundation for future education.
3. **Optimised Use of Resources:** The school has the capacity to accommodate younger children without disrupting existing provisions.
4. **Financial Viability:** Expanding the nursery age range is expected to increase enrolment, ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

Why has this school been chosen / identified?

Currently some children attend for one year and others for two years. The proposed changes will enable younger children to join the school and allow parents to have the option of continuity of childcare from just one provider before their child makes the transition to primary school.



Evidence of Demand:

Since the working family entitlement came in for 2-year-olds, the school has had an increase in pupil places from summer 2024 onwards. Several enquiries have been received with regard to under 2-year-olds since the entitlement changed.

Impact on families and pupils

Parents will need to apply as per the normal admission process. Current pupils may notice the small increase to the total number of pupils at the School, but this will remain within the commissioned number of places for the setting.

Impact on the education of pupils in the area

There will be minimal impact on other nurseries within the area.

How will this impact on staff

Generally, staff will be unaffected and may experience more opportunities for professional development. If this proposal is approved, any impact on terms and conditions would be with full consultation with Trade Unions / Professional Associations.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There will be no changes to the building required to accommodate the proposed additional provision within the current school buildings.

What are the project costs for this proposal and how is it funded?

There are no building project costs associated with this proposal as the current spaces can accommodate the additional numbers.

As there are no additional spaces required to accommodate the proposal, any costs associated with reconfiguring the current spaces will be the responsibility of the school.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a significant change process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. Following this consultation, the proposal will be presented to the Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families as they are the decision maker for this type of proposal.



Consultation Period

The consultation period will run until the last day of term, Friday 11th April 2025.

Stakeholders are encouraged to comment during this period. The comments from this period of the consultation are presented to the decision maker.

Decision

It is only after a decision has been made that we will be able to say with certainty whether the proposal will be implemented. The decision maker is Birmingham City Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families.

The decision will be published in June 2025.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If the proposed change to the age range is not approved for implementation, the school will continue to operate at the age range of 2-5 years old.

How do I comment on this proposal?

We invite all interested parties to give us their comment on this proposal.

Any comments must be received no later than 11th April 2025

*You can comment online via: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/highfieldnurseryschool1010215>

You can write to us at:

Birmingham City Council,
School Organisation Team,
PO Box 15843,
Birmingham, B2 2RT.

Or by email: ediproperty@birmingham.gov.uk

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal [*some dates are indicative].



Key dates

Action	Date
Start consultation period	19 th March 2025
Finish consultation period	11 th April 2025
Final decision	June 2025
Changes implemented	1 st September 2025

Groups consulted:

Highfield Nursery School governors, staff, parents / carers and pupils
Birmingham City Council colleagues and services
NHS partners
Local Councillor(s)
Member(s) of Parliament
Birmingham Schools
Local Archdiocese
Other / Neighbouring Local Authorities
Trade Unions / Professional Associations



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Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts on this proposal.

Consultation Response Form

Please help us to analyse your response by completing the following:

Your name (optional): _____

Your contact details (optional):

Are you in favour of the proposal (please select one answer)?

Yes	No	Neither / Don't know
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What type of stakeholder are you (please select one answer)?

Pupil	
Parent / Carer of pupil	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local Resident	
Local Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please describe)	

Please provide your comments on the proposal.

(Continue on additional page, as required.)

