Birmingham City Council

Bloomsbury Nursery School

Proposal to alter the age range

November 2026

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 1 April 2027

Type:	Local Authority Nursery School		
Name:	Bloomsbury Nursery School	**DFE:**	**330/1025**
Address:	Bloomsbury Street, Birmingham, B7 5BX		
Ward:	Nechells	**Constituency:**	Ladywood
Age Range:	2-5	**Sixth Form:**	NA
Gender:	Mixed	**Capacity:**	96 Full-time places
Last Ofsted:	May 2023	**Ofsted Rating**	Outstanding

Why do we want to do this?

Background:
The school currently provides 96 full-time pupil places (192 part-time equivalent) 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 April 2027.

Bloomsbury Nursery School is the lead school for the Early Years Stronger Practice Hub.

The council in collaboration with Bloomsbury Nursery School have agreed to consult on the proposal to change the age range of 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 provision.
4. **Financial Viability:** Expanding the nursery age range is expected to increase enrolment, ensuring long-term financial sustainability.
5. **Favourable initial feedback:** the school consulted the local community earlier in the year, which was 95% favourable feedback.

Why has this school been chosen / identified?

The school has set out that it has capacity within its existing arrangements to extend provision and has provided local context about demand for places for children under two.

Evidence of Demand:
Since the working family entitlement was introduced by the government for 0 to 2–year-olds, the school has received a healthy number of enquiries from parent/carers from the local area about places for under 2-year-olds since the entitlement changed. Due to the number of enquiries, the school consulted earlier in the year with local parents/carers resulting in 35 expressing a genuine interest to access a 0 – 2 year old place, if available.

Impact on other education establishments:
There will be minimal impact on other nurseries within the area.

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.

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 are some building works identified to adapt the internal and external areas to accommodate the new pupils.

What are the project costs for this proposal and how is it funded?
The building works, new equipment and any additional staff will be funded by the school. The school has demonstrated the financial viability and affordability of the project.

Will this definitely happen?
There is a process that Birmingham City Council follows 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 from, Monday 23 November 2026 to Tuesday 18 December.

Stakeholders are encouraged to comment during this period. The comments from 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. We will notify stakeholders of the outcome.

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 its current 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 18 December 2026

*You can comment online via: –

https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/bcc/bloomsburynurseryschool-nonstat-sot10223

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	23 November 2026
Finish consultation period	18 December 2026
Final decision	February 2027
Changes implemented	1 April 2027

Groups consulted:
Bloomsbury Nursery School governors, staff, parents / carers and pupils
Birmingham City Council colleagues and services
NHS partners
Local Councillor(s)
Member(s) of Parliament

Bloomsbury Nursery School (Non-Stat SOT10223)

Proposal to alter the age range

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 circle one answer)?

Yes	**No**	**Neither / Don't know**

What type of stakeholder are you (please select one answer)?

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

Please provide your comments on the proposal.
(Continue on additional page, as required.)

Personal or identifying information is only available to Birmingham City Council for the purpose of this consultation and is not shared.