



Full Proposal Document

Cotteridge Primary School

Proposal to alter the age range to remove nursery provision.

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, in collaboration with the school, is consulting on the following changes to Cotteridge Primary School (a community school).

School Information

Type:	Community School (Local Authority Maintained)		
Name:	Cotteridge Primary School	DFE:	2055
Address:	Breedon Road, Birmingham B30 2HT		
Ward:	Stirchley	District:	Selly Oak
Age Range:	3 – 11 years	Capacity:	420 (excluding 39 full time place nursery)
Last Ofsted:	3 rd July 2014	Ofsted Rating	2 : Good

Nursery Capacity:

Capacity of nursery provision:	39 (78 part time)
Full time equivalent:	39
Current nursery attendance:	13

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to Cotteridge Primary School:

- Alter the lower age limit from 3 years to become 4 years;
- This would change the age range of the school to be 4 – 11 years.
- This would result in the removal of nursery provision.

Why do we want to do this?

The number attending the nursery at the school has been lower in recent years. This is due to there being a large supply of nursery provision in the local area and surrounding areas. The nursery has a capacity of 39 full time places, however the school has been operating and resourcing the nursery at the capacity of 26 full time places and offering morning places only for some time. This means that the nursery has been operating at approximately 16% capacity.

This has financial implications as the cost of providing the nursery is more than the amount of money received. Nurseries operating with a large number of unfilled places can be a risk to the financial viability and sustainability of the nursery which can impact the budget of the school. If the school experiences financial deficit, this can impact on staffing, standards and attainment and affect the performance of the school. To support the school to focus their time and finances on Key stage 1 and 2,

Evidence of Demand:

There is a small over-supply of Early Education and Childcare provision (0 to 4 age range) in the local area surrounding Cotteridge Primary School i.e. Stirchley Ward.

- Number of places in the Stirchley ward: 462 part time equivalent (pte).
- Number of places potentially needed in the Stirchley Ward: 425

There are 11 early-years providers in the Stirchley ward consisting of 2 nursery classes managed by primary schools, 7 childminders and 2 full day-care private, voluntary or independent (PVI) nursery providers.

Currently only 14% of children who are resident in Stirchley ward take up a place with a provider within the ward even though the majority are rated “good” by Ofsted, and instead chose to take their children to childcare providers in wards bordering Stirchley where there is also an oversupply of places and the provision is of a high quality.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers at Birmingham City Council, it is intended that the proposal will be implemented from **31st July 2020**

Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?

Other nursery providers in the area may find that they have increased applications. There is sufficient provision to accommodate the local need.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

There are no safeguarding concerns for any of the pupils that may be affected. Pupils who are currently in the nursery will have left at the end of the year.

Parents who have applied for a place in September 2020 have been advised that there are proposals to close the nursery and have been advised to also look at alternative places should the closure of Cotteridge primary School nursery class be approved. The school and the Local Authority Early Years Team will be able to advise and support parents to find alternative places should the proposal be approved.

Note: The admission arrangements at the School are not affected by this proposal. Attendance at a nursery provision does not give pupils any priority to admission into the School’s reception class.

How will this affect staff?

All existing nursery staff will be found alternative roles within the school. It is not anticipated that there will be any changes to staff term and conditions, however any changes to existing terms and conditions or staff reductions would always be with full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There is no building work needed for this proposal. Should the proposal be approved the current nursery accommodation will be used as a teaching classroom for other children.

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

There are no project costs associated with this proposal. The nursery provision is currently funded through Early Education Entitlement funding for eligible 3 and 4 year olds based on actual termly attendance. It is intended that the removal of nursery provision from the school would provide savings and relief from pressure on the whole school budget.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools.

This document is the full proposal for statutory public consultation, referred to as “the representation period”. All comments we receive during that period will be anonymised and forwarded to the decision makers for consideration. Within two months of the end of the representation period, Birmingham City Council’s Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture, jointly with the Director of Education and Skills, will make a decision.

It is only after the decision that we will be able to say with certainty whether or not the proposal will be implemented. A letter will be sent to the Governing Body and Head Teacher to notify them of the decision. The school will share the decision with families and staff of the school. The decision will also be published on the consultation webpage in the details below.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, Cotteridge Primary School will continue to have an age range of 3 to 11 years; and continue to offer nursery provision.

Alternative solutions to the sustainability of the nursery provision would need to be explored to relieve the financial pressure this causes to the school budget.

How can I make my views known?

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

Any comments must be received between 5th March 2020 and 2nd April 2020

You can submit your written comments via the following methods:

- Online survey: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/Cotteridge>
- By email (with Cotteridge in the subject): eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
- Using the attached form or by letter to:
School Organisation Team – Education Infrastructure
Birmingham City Council
PO Box 15843
Birmingham B2 2RT

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	5 th March 2020
Beginning of 4 week consultation period	5 th March 2020
End of 4 week consultation period	2 nd April 2020
Final decision to be made no later than	2 nd June 2020
Changes implemented	31 st July 2020

**School Organisation Proposal: Cotteridge Primary School
Alteration to the Lower Age Range from 3 – 11 years to 4 -11 years**

Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts on these proposals.

Consultation Response Form

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

Your name (optional): _____

Your contact details (optional, if you would like a reply)

Your interest in the proposal (please indicate one of the below):

Pupil	
Parent	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local resident	
Local Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please specify)	

Please provide your comments to the proposal.