



Full Proposal Document

Gunter 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 Gunter Primary School (a community school).

School Information

Type:	Community School (Local Authority Maintained)		
Name:	Gunter Primary School	DFE:	2091
Address:	Gunter Road, Pye Hayes, Birmingham B24 ORU		
Ward:	Pye Hayes	District:	Erdington
Age Range:	3 – 11 years	Capacity:	189
Last Ofsted:	April 2012	Ofsted Rating	Good

Nursery Capacity:

Capacity of nursery provision:	75 (part time equivalent)
Full time equivalent:	37
Current nursery attendance:	11 part time; 10 full time.

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to Gunter 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. The nursery has been operating at approximately 40% 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 large over-supply of Early Education and Childcare provision (0 to 4 age range) in the local area surrounding Gunter Primary School i.e. Pye Hayes Ward.

- Number of places in the Pye Hayes Ward: 682 part time equivalent (pte).
- Number of places potentially needed in the Pye Hayes Ward: 458 pte.

There are 9 early-years providers in the Pye Hayes ward consisting of 3 nursery classes managed by primary schools, 2 childminders and 4 full day-care private, voluntary or independent (PVI) nursery providers.

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 **1st September 2019**.

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. There is a private nursery provider on the Gunter Primary School site (The Nest).

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 either have left or would need to find alternative provision, if this proposal is approved. There is a private nursery provider on the school site (The Nest) that has an Ofsted grade of outstanding. The Nest has agreed to provide places for current nursery pupils that would be affected by this proposal. This would provide an opportunity for siblings to remain in provision at the same site as Gunter Primary School. The Nest may also be able to offer places for families that have expressed an interest in Gunter Primary School's nursery for September 2019.

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?

The school is currently engaging with staff about the future structure of roles across the school. This proposal will form part of that engagement. Any changes to existing terms and conditions or staff reductions will be with full consultation with the trading unions and teaching associations.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There is no building work needed for this proposal. The current nursery space will continue to be available and used by the Reception year group. The school also intend to use the space for their before and after-school clubs, as it offers better space and facilities for the clubs.

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, Gunter 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 4th April and 2nd May 2019.

You can submit your written comments via the following methods:

- Online survey: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/gunter>
- By email (with Gunter 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	4 th April 2019
Beginning of 4 week consultation period	4 th April 2019
End of 4 week consultation period	2 nd May 2019
Final decision to be made no later than	2 nd July 2019
Changes implemented	1 st September 2019