



Full Proposal Document

Kitwell Primary School and Nursery Class

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 Kitwell Primary School and Nursery Class (a community school).

School Information

Type:	Community School (Local Authority Maintained)		
Name:	Kitwell Primary School and Nursery Class	DFE:	2321
Address:	Wychbury Road, Birmingham B32 4DL		
Ward:	Bartley Green	District:	Edgbaston
Age Range:	3 – 11 years	Capacity:	210 (excluding 26 full time place nursery)
Last Ofsted:	12 th November 2019	Ofsted Rating	Requires improvement

Nursery Capacity (figures at February 2020):

Capacity of nursery provision:	26 (52 part time equivalent PTE)
Full time equivalent (FTE):	26
Current nursery attendance:	0

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to Kitwell Primary School and Nursery Class:

- 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 nursery has a capacity of 26 full time places. The number attending the nursery at the school has been lower in recent years. The nursery was operating at approximately 80% capacity in the Spring Term 2019 however has reduced significantly to 46% in Spring Term 2020 - of its FTE capacity. This is due to parental choice and there being a large supply of early years provision in the local and surrounding areas.

Since the school wrote to parents about this proposal earlier in the year, families have found alternative placements for their children and the nursery currently has no pupils on roll. Unfilled places have financial implications for the school 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 wider school. If the school experiences financial deficit, this can impact on staffing, standards and attainment and affect the performance of the school. Birmingham City Council is proposing this change to support the school to focus their time and finances on Key stage 1 and 2,

Evidence of Demand:

There is an over-supply of Early Education and Childcare provision (0 to 4 age range) in the local area surrounding Kitwell Primary School and Nursery Class i.e. Bartley Green Ward.

- Number of places in the Bartley Green ward: 1,316 part time equivalent (PTE).
- Number of places potentially needed in the Bartley Green Ward:1,030

There are 27 early-years providers in the Bartley Green ward consisting of 1 Maintained Nursery School, 3 nursery classes managed by primary schools, 14 childminders and 9 full day-care private, voluntary or independent (PVI) nursery providers.

Currently 64% of children accessing a 2, 3 & 4 year-old early education place who are resident in Bartley Green ward take up a place with a provider within the ward which is above the city average. The remaining 36% of children access a place with providers outside of the ward due to parental choice.

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 December 2020**

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

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

How will this affect pupils at the school?

As there are currently no pupils in the nursery there will be limited impact on other pupils of the school.

Parents applying for places 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 the school's 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 Board 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 that is listed in the details below.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, Kitwell Primary School and Nursery Class will continue to have an age range of 3 to 11 years; and continue to offer nursery provision. The financial pressure on the school budget will continue unless an alternative solution is found.

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 24th September 2020 and 22nd October 2020

You can submit your written comments via the following methods:

- Online survey: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/kitwell/>
- By email (with Kitwell 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	24 th September 2020
Beginning of 4-week consultation period	24 th September 2020
End of 4 week consultation period	22 nd October 2020
Final decision to be made no later than	22 nd December 2020
Changes implemented	31 st December 2020

**School Organisation Proposal: Kitwell Primary School and Nursery Class
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)

Are you in favour of the proposal? (optional: select one answer): (Yes) (No) (Neither/Don't know)

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 (continue on next page if required).