

Mapledene Primary School

Proposal to alter the age range

March 2025



Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham in close collaboration with the leadership and governing body of the school is consulting on a proposal at Mapledene Primary School to:

- Alter the lower age range of the school from 3-11 to 4-11
- Remove nursery provision with effect from 1st September 2025

Type:	Community School		
Name:	Mapledene Primary School	DFE:	3308004
Address:	Mapledene Road, Birmingham, West Midlands, B26 3XE		
Ward:	Sheldon	Constituency:	Yardley
Age Range:	3 - 11 years	Sixth Form:	NA
Gender:	Mixed	Pupil Places:	315
Last Ofsted:	November 2022	Ofsted Rating	Good

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The governing body of Mapledene Primary School have agreed to consult on the proposal to close the nursery provision at the school.

The key reasons for this decision include:

1. **Declining Enrolment:** The number of nursery pupils has steadily decreased over the past few years.
2. **Financial Deficit:** The school is currently operating at a deficit, and the nursery provision has significantly contributed to this. The projected shortfall for 2025/26 stands at -£22,706.
3. **Sufficiency of Alternative Early Years Provision:** The local authority's sufficiency data indicates that alternative early year's providers can accommodate displaced nursery pupils without significant disruption to families.
4. **Optimised Use of Resources:** The nursery space will be repurposed to enhance other educational provisions, including music and PE facilities, thereby benefiting the wider school community.

Why has this school been chosen / identified?

The school approached the Council with their concerns about the finances and pupil numbers in their nursery provision. The Council reviewed the circumstances and agreed to support the school and consult on the proposal to remove the nursery class by altering the age range of the school.

Impact on the education of pupils in the area

Should the proposal be agreed, the closure of the nursery provision is not expected to have a detrimental impact on other local early years providers. The school has received only a few applications for September 2025. Furthermore, there is no anticipated impact on reception class enrolment.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Some current nursery pupils may have older siblings at the school, potentially affecting school routines and shared experiences. The proposal to close the nursery class at the end of this academic year and not sooner, will at least allow current pupils to complete their nursery time at Mapledene Primary School and limit the impact.

How will this affect staff?

Generally, staff at the school will largely be unaffected by the proposal. However, if this proposal is approved, any affected staff and associated contracts will be managed to mitigate workforce displacement and any impact on terms and conditions would be with full consultation with Trade Unions / Professional Associations.

Travel and Transport:

Given the availability of alternative nursery settings within the Sheldon area, there will be minimal impact on travel and transport for families. Parents will be informed of available options to ensure a smooth transition.

Will there be changes to the school building?

One large classroom currently designated for nursery use, could be repurposed for music provision should the proposal be agreed and there will be minimal refurbishment costs required to transition the space.

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

There are no specific costs identified in respect of this proposal. The continued operation of the nursery provision is financially unviable. The governing body and the leadership of the school believe that the closure is a necessary measure to support the school's deficit recovery plan.

Academic Year	Nursery Pupils	Funding Received	Staffing Costs	Other Costs	Net Impact
2023/24	15	£50,129	£50,508	£2,000	-£2,379
2024/25	14	£46,709	£55,469	£2,105	-£10,865
2025/26	10 (est.)	£37,559 (est.)	£58,060	£2,205	-£22,706

The ongoing maintenance and running costs of any reconfigured spaces will be the responsibility of the school.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. It is only after a decision that we will be able to say with certainty whether or not the proposal will be implemented. The decision will be published on the BeHeard website (link in this document below) with letters or emails sent to the stakeholder groups that we have consulted.

When will these changes happen?

Following this consultation period, if the proposal is approved by the decision maker, the changes will be implemented from September 2025.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

The age range of the School will remain the same and the nursery provision would continue. The School, with support from the Council, would need to consider options to address the financial impacts of retaining the nursery provision.

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.

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/mapledeneprimaryschoolsot10209>

You can write to us at:

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

(please include: **Mapledene Primary SOT10209** in all correspondence)

Or by email: ediproperty@birmingham.gov.uk

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for the Council 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:

Mapledene Primary 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

Mapledene Primary School:

Alter the Age Range to remove Nursery provision

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 at Mapledene Primary School	
Parent / Carer of pupil(s) Mapledene Primary School	
School Governor of Mapledene Primary School	
School Staff at Mapledene Primary School	
Local Resident	
Elected Birmingham Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please describe)	

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