

Park Hill Junior and Infant School

Temporary Closure of Nursery Class

March 2025



Introduction

The Governing Body of Park Hill Junior and Infant School and Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to:

- Temporarily Close the Nursery class for two years
- Effective from 1st September 2025

Type:	Local Authority Primary School		
Name:	Park Hill Junior and Infant School	DFE:	330/2150
Address:	Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8BB		
Ward:	Moseley	Constituency:	Hall Green and Moseley
Age Range:	3-4	Sixth Form:	NA
Gender:	Mixed	Capacity:	630
Last Ofsted:	December 2024	Ofsted Rating	Good

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The school currently provides 13 PTE places for early years provision which starts at 3 years old but has 30 places available. The decline in birth rate in the local area has resulted in low nursery enrolment, impacting financial sustainability. The school has moved from a three-form entry to a one-form entry structure in most year groups due to a declining pupil population.

Declining nursery roll has financial implications as the cost of providing the nursery is more than the amount of income it receives. The nursery is operating with unfilled places which is a risk to the financial viability and sustainability of the nursery which can then impact the budget of the school. The proposed change will support the school to focus their time and resources on Key Stage 1 and 2 provision.

Why has this school been chosen / identified?

The school approached the Council with their concerns about the finances and pupil numbers in the nursery class. The Council reviewed the circumstances and agreed to support the school with the proposal to temporarily close the nursery provision for two years and then review the position again.

Evidence of Demand:

Currently only 13 out of the 30 nursery places are filled. Projected future enrolment remains low with only six applications received for the next academic year (2025/26).

Impact on families and pupils

Some current nursery pupils have older siblings at the school, potentially affecting school routines and shared experiences. There are also two children that have Speech, Language and Communication Needs currently on roll. The proposal is that the nursery class will not be closed until the end of this academic year, leaving current pupils to complete their nursery time at Park Hill Junior and Infant School and limit the impact.

Impact on the education of pupils in the area

There will be minimal impact on other nurseries within the area, and in fact will support parents to access other local provisions and in turn boost their numbers.

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 will be no changes to the current school buildings. The classroom currently used for the nursery provision will be vacant but maintained for future use.

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

The school faces a growing financial deficit, projected to increase from £401,594 to £653,928. The Governing Body previously ran the nursery at a loss, but financial constraints now necessitate the proposal for the temporary closure.

If the proposal is agreed the school will achieve savings of approximately £42,000 due to the departure of the nursery teacher. Additional savings on energy and cleaning costs will also be realised. The estimated maintenance costs of £25,000 identified in the school condition survey may also be realised if not essential.

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

Will this definitely happen?

There is a significant change process we must follow 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, who is the decision maker for this type of proposal.

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.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

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

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/parkhillschoolsot1010202>

You can write to us at:

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

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.

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:

Park Hill Junior & Infant School 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

Proposal to temporarily close the nursery class

Consultation Response Form

Your name (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	
Parent / Carer of pupil	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local Resident	
Local Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please describe)	

(Continue on additional page, as required.)

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