

Gilbertstone Primary School

**Proposal to alter the age
range (to remove
nursery provision)**

April 2023



Introduction

Birmingham City Council (the Council), as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal at Gilbertstone Primary School to:

- alter the lower age limit from 3 years to become 4 years
- this will result in the removal of nursery provision
- effective 1st September 2023

Gilbertstone Primary School (The School) can offer 26 full time equivalent (FTE) places (52 part time equivalent (PTE) pupil places) within its nursery provision and currently 21 part time pupil places are taken up.

Type:	Community School		
Name:	Gilbertstone Primary School	DFE:	330/2081
Address:	Clay Lane, Birmingham, B26 1EH		
Ward:	South Yardley	Constituency:	Yardley
Age Range:	3-11	Sixth Form:	NA
Gender:	Mixed	Capacity:	374
Last Ofsted:	June 2018	Ofsted Rating	Good

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The numbers attending nursery provision in Birmingham has fallen over recent years. There are currently 204 PTE vacant places available for early years provision within the South Yardley ward. This has financial implications as the cost of providing the nursery is more than the amount of money received. The nursery is operating with unfilled places which can be a risk to the financial viability and sustainability of the nursery which can then impact the budget of the school.

If the school continues to experience financial deficit, this can impact on staffing, standards and attainment and affect the performance of the school. The proposed change will support the school to focus their time and finances on Key stage 1 and 2 provision.

The school is currently subsidising the nursery provision by £33,222 in 2022 / 23. It is forecast the deficit for 2023 / 24 would be £28,025.

Why has this school been chosen / identified?

The school approached the Council with their concerns about the finances and pupil numbers in nursery provision. The Council reviewed the circumstances and agreed to support the school and propose that the nursery provision be removed by changing the age range of the school.

Evidence of Demand:

Currently there is an oversupply 204 PTE places for the 0 to 4 age range in the South Yardley Ward where the nursery is located. In addition, the surrounding wards of Acocks Green (203), Tyseley and Hay Mills (94), Yardley West and Stechford

(402), and Sheldon (561) have a collective oversupply of 1,260 PTE places therefore the closure of the nursery at Gilbertstone Primary School can be absorbed.

The school has a PAN for 26 FTE (52 part time) pupil places within the nursery provision. Currently 21 part time places are filled for the morning only.

The school currently has 12 part time applications for a place in the nursery for September 2023.

Impact on families and pupils

Although having a nursery is appealing at the school. Being on roll at the nursery does not give any pupils priority when applying for a place in reception. Parents would continue to apply as per the normal admission process.

The removal of nursery provision from the school could be disappointing and even inconvenient to those families that have already applied for a place in September 2023. This must be balanced against the overall viability of the nursery and impact on the school budget. The information in this proposal demonstrates that there is a high supply of alternative provision for families in the area.

Impact on the education of pupils in the area

The quality of childcare providers rated by Ofsted in the South Yardley ward (excluding Gilbertstone) is summarised below:

Provision	Number of providers	Rating
Primary School Nursery Class	1	Good
Childminders	3	Good
Day Nurseries	3	Good

Travel and Transport:

As noted above, this proposal could be disappointing for some families interested in a place at the nursery. The proposal could mean that families with pupils already on roll at the school would need to drop children at the school and a sibling at a separate nursery provider.

The following shows alternative provision within 1 mile radius of Gilbertstone Primary School:

- Our Little Angelz 3 (South Yardley Ward)
- Golden Stars Nursery (South Yardley Ward)
- Little Swans Day Nursery (South Yardley Ward)
- 5 Childminders (South Yardley Ward)
- Harvey Road Pre-School (Sheldon Ward)
- Oxford Day Nursery (Acocks Green Ward)
- Little Steps Nursery and Pre- School (Acocks Green Ward)

How will this impact on staff

If this proposal is approved, the school has a vacancy for a teacher and teaching assistant. The effected nursery staff members would be offered redeployment into

the school vacancies. Any impact on terms and conditions would be with full consultation with Trade Unions / Professional Associations.

Will there be changes to the school building?

The reception classroom is small and if the proposal is approved the school plans to use the nursery area to enhance reception provision. There are pupils with wheelchairs and standing frames at the school and the additional space would be used for physio every week.

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

There are no costs associated with this proposal.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a statutory 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.

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.

How do I comment on this proposal?

We invite all interested parties to comment on this proposal.

Any comments must be received no later than 18th May 2023

You can comment online via BeHeard:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/schoolorganisationsot10190>

You can write to us at:

By email: edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

By letter to:

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 published	20 th April 2023
Start 4 week consultation period	20 th April 2023
Finish 4 week consultation period	18 th May 2023
Final decision deadline	18 th July 2023
Changes implemented	1 st September 2023

Groups consulted:

Gilbertstone School: governors, staff, parents/carers and pupils
Birmingham City Councillors
Member of Parliament
Birmingham Diocese and Archdiocesan
Birmingham Schools
Trade unions / professional associations
Birmingham City Council Officers and departments
The Department for Education – School Organisation
Office of the Schools Adjudicator

**Gilbertstone Primary School:
Change of 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 of Gilbertstone Primary School	
Parent/Carer of pupil of Gilbertstone Primary School	
Governor of Gilbertstone Primary School	
Staff of Gilbertstone Primary School	
Local Resident	
Local Councillor for Birmingham	
Member of Parliament for Birmingham	
Other (please describe e.g parent/staff of another school)	

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