

Stechford Primary School

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

March 2025



Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal at Stechford 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

Stechford Primary School can offer 26 full time equivalent (FTE) nursery pupil places).

Type:	Community School		
Name:	Stechford Primary School	DFE:	330/2081
Address:	Albert Road, Stechford, Birmingham, B33 8SJ		
Ward:	Yardley West & Stechford	Constituency:	Yardley
Age Range:	3-11	Sixth Form:	NA
Gender:	Mixed	Capacity:	420
Last Ofsted:	February 2024	Ofsted Rating	Good

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The numbers attending nursery provision in Birmingham has fallen over recent years. The School has experienced the decline in demand for places illustrated by the nursery class having a PAN of 26 FTE places but only providing between 16 to 18 PTE places for the academic year 2023 / 2024 terms. 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 is 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 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 nursery provision. The Council reviewed the circumstances and agreed to support the school and consult on the proposal to remove the nursery class by changing the age range of the school.

Evidence of Demand:

We are currently forecasting an oversupply of 258 PTE places available for early years provision within the Yardley West and Stechford ward for September 2025. The forecast takes into account projected demand levels related to the government's rollout of funded hours from April 2024 for eligible working parents of 0 to 2 year olds. The roll out will be phased in with 15 hours available from April 2024 rising to

30 hours from September 2025. Based on the forecast the closure of the nursery at the School can be absorbed.

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 2025. 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 Yardley Stechford ward is summarised below:

Provision	Number of providers	Rating
Primary School Nursery Class	1	Good
Maintained Nursery School	1	Good
Childminders	6	Good
Day Nurseries	4	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.

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?

There will not be any changes to the school building, the classroom will be repurposed to support pupils across the school who need additional support.

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

There are no costs associated with this proposal. Any minor refurbishment or reallocation of resources will be funded through the school's existing budget, ensuring value for money.

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.

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/stechfordprimaryschoolst10203>

You can write to us at:

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

Or 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 [*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:

Stechford Primary 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

Stechford 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 Stechford Primary School	
Parent/Carer of pupil of Stechford Primary School	
Governor of Stechford Primary School	
Staff of Stechford 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.)