



Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus

Headteacher: Mrs A Dowling, BA Ed (Hons) NPQH

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

11th November 2024

CONSULTATION ON INCREASING NURSERY PROVISION AT ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am writing to you to inform you of a proposal from the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust to increase the provision for nursery at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School. This includes a change in the age range from 3 – 11 to 2 – 11.

Specifically, the proposal would see an increase in the provision for two-year-old children of up to 30 places from September 2025.

Why this change and why now?

Recent changes to government funding mean many working parents will be supported with up to 30 hours of funded nursery care. Seeking to meet the demand this funding will generate; the government has reached out to all schools to consider an expansion of their early years provision. The changes we are seeking to make will be funded through government grants and complement existing provisions.

What would be the benefit of this proposal?

The proposed move will be of significant benefit to the children who access our nursery provision. Ensuring those children who need nursery provision can access provision across both years will be of benefit to each child's development. We are profoundly aware of the impact of transition on young children and appreciate the benefit an all-through nursery provision will bring to their development.

We believe the provision will be of great benefit to parents and carers too. While there is a separate admission arrangement to the main school, most parents and carers will have children across many different year groups. Combining our nursery offer with our wider wrap around offer all available on one site will be of benefit to busy parents and carers.

What will the provision look like?

All providers are required to follow strict guidelines around ratios for care. This is summarised below:

- Two-year-old: At least one member of staff for every 5 children
- Three-year-old: At least one member of staff for every 8 children



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Further, providers are required to follow the Early Years Foundation Framework, ensuring children are developed through a programme that follows best practice. Of course, since the provision of the school is in the context of a wider curriculum, we can make sure that learning in both phases of preschool feeds into the wider school curriculum. The school has excellent facilities that we expect to further enhance through the grant process of this application.

Will the proposal disrupt the pupils currently at the school?

No, as the provision makes use of excess space.

Why are we consulting now?

We are keen to understand the views of our local community on this proposal and so, as per the best practice recommended by the Department for Education, we have incorporated a period of consultation into the decision-making process. The consultation will run for a period of 3 weeks from 12th November to 3rd December.

Will there be extra traffic and how will the impact be reduced?

We anticipate a significant number of users will already have children / will have children in older year groups and do not therefore envisage a large increase in traffic. However, where we see a marked increase in traffic we will meet the needs of the community through staggered starts.

Will the proposals have any impact on admissions to the school's reception class?

No, current admissions to the school remain unchanged and will not be affected by the proposal. Please go to the Trust admissions page for more details: [Admissions - St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust](#)

What are the next stages in the process?

The Local Academy Committee and Directors of the Trust will review the responses to the consultation on 4th December 2024. They will decide whether the school will proceed with an application to the Department for Education to proceed with the change with an application submitted before the end of term.

How can I respond to this consultation?



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Please click on this link to complete a response to this application:

<https://forms.office.com/e/pi4yLvmLER>

Within the consultation we are seeking to understand the numbers of parents and carers who would like to access a provision of this kind. If you would like us to develop a provision at the school, it is important that you respond to this consultation.

We would really welcome your views on our proposal and look forward to receiving your completed form.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Dowling
Headteacher



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