



Public consultation – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

# Proposal for Millfields First School to expand the Governor led early years provision from two years old

This document contains information that will help you understand the issues surrounding this proposed change. An informal virtual drop-in session has been arranged to explain the proposal and to answer questions:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>4pm</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b><a href="https://tinyurl.com/28kd8vzk">https://tinyurl.com/28kd8vzk</a></b>

Dear Parents / Governors / Colleagues

Consultation on proposal for Millfields First School to expand the Governor led early years provision from two years old.

This document explains:

- Why we feel it is appropriate to consider the expansion of our Governor led pre-school to include 2-year-olds
- The timescale for the consultation
- Who is being consulted
- What happens at the end of the consultation period

### **Have your say**

It is very important that all those involved have a say. A copy of the response form can be downloaded from the school website, or a hard copy picked up from the school office.

Responses must be submitted to:

Millfields First School  
Swift Close  
Bromsgrove  
B61 7BS

Or send an e-mail to [office@millfields.worcs.sc.uk](mailto:office@millfields.worcs.sc.uk) with your response or for a hard copy response form.

Responses must be received by 2pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Lisa Montandon  
Headteacher  
Millfields First School

## **Background information**

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to secure, as far as is reasonably possible, early years education provision that is of good quality, accessible, flexible, inclusive and provided through a range of settings to meet parental demand for childcare for children aged two, three and four.

Since the 2006 Childcare Act, families with three-and four-year-old children in England are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, beginning in the term after their third birthday and until the child reaches compulsory school age. This universal offer was introduced to support child development and school readiness. In 2013 this offer was extended to eligible families from the term following the child's second birthday.

Maintained schools can operate Governor led nursery provision for children two to four years of age. Millfields First School and Pre-school currently offers early education places for three and four-year olds. Under this proposal, the provision would be extended to also enable up to ten two-year olds to access school provision. Admission into the nursery will be in line with the school's pre-school admission policy. This change will have no impact to the admissions policy and criteria for reception.

## **The proposal**

The school leadership and Governing Body feels that the time is right to consider the extension of their school nursery class for two-year-olds alongside provision for three- and four-year olds.

Operating a two-year-old provision as part of the governor led early years provision will have a number of benefits:

- Children attending the nursery can be fully integrated into the school and local community.
- Registration of all children will be consistent, as will tracking of attendance and attainment.
- Parents and carers will benefit from the opportunity to pay for services using online methods.
- Millfields First School is continuing to look to the future and seek out opportunities to cement its role in the local community. Children attending the 2-year-old provision will transition seamlessly and join our happy, friendly, and family led school community.
- The school is currently rated as 'Good' by Ofsted (April 2024); we are in a strong position to ensure good quality early years education in the nursery.
- The school is committed to supporting our current pre-school with a wide range of health and social care professionals, enabling us to identify early concerns and address potential barriers to children's progress. This early intervention helps us meet children's needs effectively while building strong relationships with families. Introducing a provision for two-year-olds will extend this valuable program, allowing us to enhance outcomes for children and provide additional support to vulnerable families. It will also give younger children at Millfields the opportunity to become more familiar with the school environment, interact with a wider range of staff, and integrate smoothly into school life.

## **Evidence of demand**

Governors have been part of the consideration of this change and parents have enquired as to whether an application will be in progress. Verbally, they have expressed support for the extension of provision for a two-year-old governor led early years provision at Millfields.

There is currently demand for nursery places for two-year-olds from families living within the school catchment area. This proposal is anticipated to have a positive impact on choice for families and increase the uptake of places in our reception classes. As a result, this proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on other providers currently serving the wider Bromsgrove area. The ward in which Millfields resides does not have sufficient 2-year-old places, as identified by Worcestershire LA.

## **Accommodation required**

Millfields First School and Pre-school is a popular school rated 'Good' by Ofsted in April 2024 which provided a review of Pre-school quality provision. The Senior Leadership of the school has significant combined early years knowledge and a highly qualified Early Years Lead already in post.

Additional accommodation is needed to support this change in provision and to ensure that the space standards meet the requirements set out in the Early Years Framework. The school is dedicated to collaborating with other nurseries to support transitions, manage mid-year changes, and facilitate a smooth start for children entering Millfields' Reception classes. We are also committed to working with nurseries to guarantee that children who split funding receive high-quality provision. This includes partnering with the Local Authority and private providers to ensure a well-rounded education for all children.

## **How the decision will be made**

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Governors will consider any issues that have been raised before deciding whether to make a formal proposal to the Local Authority.

The Local Authority will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

- The response to the public consultation
- The quality of education provision at the school
- The ability of the school to manage the proposed change to support the continued improvements at the school
- Demand for places in the local area

## **Who is being consulted?**

This document will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the school
- Staff and Governors of other local schools
- Local District and County Councillors
- The Local Education Authority
- Immediate neighbours
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Education
- Any other local stakeholder

## What happens next?

### **Consultation phase – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the options expressed in this document. This document and the meeting detailed on the cover form part of the consultation.

### **Governing Body decision**

The school governors and the preschool committee members will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period a decision will be made by the Governing Body of the school and documented within the minutes of the meeting. The minutes will be shared with the Local Authority.

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by 2pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 by completing the response form available on the school website [Home - Millfields First School](#) and WCC website at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations). If you are unable to access the online response form you can obtain a paper copy from the school office.