

29/11/2024

Consultation on Lowering School Age Range to Include Nursery Aged pupils 2 – 11

Following the closure of the privately-run nursery setting on our site, September 2023, we are consulting on proposals for Broomfield Primary School (part of Arete Learning Trust) to open a school led Nursery provision. Our Local Committee want to provide a high-quality school-based nursery provision for our community.

We are therefore consulting about lowering the school age range from 5 – 11 to 2 – 11 from September 2025.

The 19-place provision will cater for government funded places for 2 (the term after turning 2) and 3-year olds (15/30 hours depending of age and specific circumstances). Non-funded sessions would be available for purchase.

Proposed lowering of our age range to include 2-year olds

The Trustees see this as an exciting opportunity which would enable Broomfield Primary School to provide early education and childcare places to children aged 2 and 3 years old.

We are proposing to extend our current school provision by lowering the school's age range to include 2-year olds (admitting the term after the child turns 2) and 3-year olds. We would very much like to know the views of parents and other interested members of the community. The nursery provision will be run by Early Years practitioners who have all the required qualifications (under the supervisions of our current Early Year's teachers). The setting will be appropriately staffed to meet the statutory adult to child ratios of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). If approved, the school will cater for EYFS children across 2 rooms. There will be movement and shared activities between the outdoor areas, however there is also an outdoor area specifically for the 2 and 3-year-old children.

What would the nursery look like?

The nursery provision (2+ year olds and 3-year olds) would be accommodated within our main school building adjacent to the existing EYFS room and outdoor area. The provision will be very similar to what is currently available in our existing EYFS. There will be areas such as role-play, sand, water, construction, reading, mark making, outside play, etc. The room would be equipped with suitable furniture, equipment and resources aimed at 2 and 3-year olds. There would be free flow between areas, including outside, allowing children the choice of activities. The children would follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum from the very beginning in the six areas of learning that describe everything that children do, see, hear or feel, both planned and unplanned. These areas are personal, social and emotional development; communication, language and literacy; mathematical development; knowledge and understanding of the world; physical development; and creative development. Most importantly, it would be an active area allowing children to move around freely and engage in a wide range of activities.

Benefits

- Families would have access to high quality school based Early Years provision from the term after they turn 2 until 11 years old.
- Provides a seamless transition from nursery into primary school
- Speech and language gaps and any other areas of individual need can be identified and addressed from earlier on in a child's education.

- Provides Government funded places for 2-year olds (the term after they turn 2) and 3-year olds providing continuity for parents and children
- The nursery provision would be managed by an experienced head teacher and school leadership team

Consultation Period

This consultation is open to everyone who has an interest in our school or who may be affected by the proposed changes. You are receiving this notice of consultation pursuant to the Department of Education guidance.

The consultation is open for 3 weeks from the date of this letter, and so you can comment on the proposals any time from 29/11/2024 to 20/12/2024. A decision as to whether to proceed with the proposed addition of a nursery provision will not be reached until the consultation has concluded and the comments made reviewed.

All responses received during the consultation will be seriously considered before a final decision is taken to submit the application to add a nursery provision. A final decision on the addition of a nursery provision a Broomfield Primary School will be made by the relevant Department of Education Regions Group following the submission of the application by the Trust.

The Local Committee of the school and Arete Learning Trust's Trustees would welcome your views on the proposal. Please send any comments addressed to Mrs Fiona Sharp, Broomfield Primary School, Broomfield Avenue, DL7 8RG or by email admin@broomfield.n-yorks.sch.uk

The closing date for receipt of responses is **20/12/2024**