



Consultation Letter
Lowering the school age at
Holy Family Catholic Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11



April 2023

The Directors of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust in partnership with the governing committee of Holy Family, are proposing a change to the age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11. As part of the process, we would like to hear your views on the proposal. Currently children who join Holy Family at the age of 4, come from a variety of settings within the locality. Under the new proposals, children aged 3 upwards, would formally become part of the same structure as the school within our new Foundation classroom.

Proposal

We propose to lower the age range of Holy Family from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years from Autumn 2023, to ensure the school meets the needs of local families and children. Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust in partnership with the Local Governing Committee of Holy Family is consulting you on a proposal to lower the admissions age to enable us to open a nursery class. This proposal will allow us to meet the needs of the community we serve in relation to early years education and will ensure a consistent setting and approach to learning for our youngest children.

Why are we proposing to lower the entry age of the children joining our school?

We want to support the government's policy on providing early years education for children in our local community through a secure, stimulating and high-quality early years nursery setting. This will complement our existing provision for children in our reception class.

In addition to this the nursery will offer the following:

- Parents will be able to claim the universal entitlement for 3-4 year olds
- Eligible working parents will be able to claim the early years additional entitlement for 3-4 year old children
- Both full time (30 hours) and flexible places are available
- Nursery places will be available Monday to Friday
- Nursery provision for 3 year olds will ensure a seamless transition for those children who obtain a place in our Reception class

Our aim is that children in our community will attend nursery and then successfully transition to our reception class. This will enable learning opportunities to be maximised across the early years for children from 3 to 5 years of age.

In accordance with the national admissions code, parents of nursery aged children would need to apply in the normal admission round if seeking to secure a place in the reception class the following year.

Will the proposal have any impact on the school's admission arrangements?

Currently, we offer 30 reception places, each year, for our children. It is proposed that we would offer up to 26 full-time places in the nursery. The number of allowed children has been predetermined by the Directors and Local Governing Body in consultation with the Local Authority.

The current number on roll is 205; these numbers do not include nursery children. Please note there is no automatic right for nursery aged children to gain a reception place at the school.

Do the governors and staff support the proposal?

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust Directors in partnership with the Local Governing Body of Holy Family Catholic Primary School and staff support the proposal, as they believe our school community and future pupils would benefit from the lowering of our school age to allow for nursery provision.

Will there be extra traffic and how will you reduce the impact of this?

There may be a small increase in traffic. However, initial enquires indicate that the nursery would be mainly filled by siblings of those children already coming to Holy Family or families living within walking distance of the school.

What are the next stages in the process?

Responses will be received throughout the consultation period, which begins on Monday 17th April, 2023 at 9am and ends on Friday 11th May 2023 at 5pm. These will be analysed and a short consultation report will be produced, which will be published on the school website.

How can I respond to this consultation?

Please complete the consultation response form with any relevant comments. The response form can be completed online via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/KdLpW973F8>

Alternatively, the response form attached can be emailed to admin@holyfamily.bhcet.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Jane Weatherall
Headteacher

CC
Parents
Parish Priest
Diocese
Governors
Staff
Local Authority
Local Schools (circulated by the LA)
Trade Unions
Trust and School Website