



4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

## **Formal Consultation on Admission Arrangements for September 2022**

**Our Lady and St Thomas Catholic Primary School, Willington**, is a small, friendly school which is part of the wider family of schools within the **Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust**.

I am extremely proud to be the Head teacher of this exceptional, nurturing school. We have a dedicated Early Years team who support our youngest children with vibrant, innovative experiences as they begin their learning journey, together with Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils who actively care for the younger children.

The school takes pride in ensuring all children receive an outstanding education and that every child thrives during their time here. Our curriculum takes place both inside and outside the classroom with outdoor spaces which enhance learning experiences. We are a happy and positive school where diversity is celebrated and enjoyed. OLST is a very special place where we are ambitious and strive to provide the best education for every child.

### **The purpose of this communication is two-fold:**

1. We wish to alert all stakeholders of our intention to consult on the opening of a nursery provision for 3-year-olds from September 2022.
2. To advise you in accordance with School Standards and Framework Act, of our proposed age range change for the academic year 2022-23

### **Rationale**

Our Reception children join us from a variety of providers and childminders. We have also had children join the school without any formal Nursery Education. Recently there have been a number of enquiries from parents requesting Nursery provision provided by the school.

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Offering Nursery provision would enable our children to start their educational journey with us from the age of three and enable a smooth transition into Reception. The school has a very experienced Early Years Team who ensure excellent provision for all of our children. The number of children who achieve a Good Level of Development with us is consistently above national average. Enabling our children to spend two years of their Early Years Education with us can only positively impact upon their development. We have the capacity to create a 10-place setting and can offer either a 15 or 30 hour provision to parents who are eligible.

### **Next Steps**

A period of consultation over the proposed Admission Arrangements begins on **Monday 4th April 2022**. The consultation period will run for 4 weeks (excluding the two weeks Easter break) ending on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022**. During this period you are invited to respond to the proposal. We would love to hear your views. Any responses must be received by the end of the consultation period in writing either by email to [office@olst.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:office@olst.bhcet.org.uk) or by letter to the School Office.

In the meantime, if you are a new parent and you are interested in learning more about our plans for a nursery, including expressing an interest for a place, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs Ruth Veitch*

Head teacher