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St Cuthbert's
Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Joanne Wilson

Deputy Head(s): Emma Daly

BHCET CEO: Stuart McGhee

BHCET Chair of Directors: Yvonne Coates

Consultation Letter
Lowering the school age at
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11

The Directors of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust in partnership with the governing committee of St Cuthbert's, are proposing a change to the age range of the school from 3-11 to 2-11. As part of the process, we would like to hear your views on the proposal. Currently children who join St Cuthbert's at the age of 3, come from a variety of settings within the locality. Under the new proposals, children aged 2 upwards, would formally become part of the same structure as the school within our Foundation classroom.

Proposal

We propose to lower the age range of St Cuthbert's from 3 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from Autumn 2025, 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 St Cuthbert's is consulting you on a proposal to lower the admissions age to enable us to open a 2 year old nursery. 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 childcare entitlement.
- Both full time (30 hours) and flexible places are available.
- Nursery places will be available Monday to Friday.
- Nursery provision 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 2 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 and ten 2 year old places. The number of allowed children has been predetermined by the Directors and Local Governing Body in consultation with the Local Authority.



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The current number on roll is 213; 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 St Cuthbert's 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 St Cuthbert's 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 26th May and ends Friday 27th June 2025 at 12 noon. 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 below with any relevant comments and return it to the school by email at admin@stcuthbertshartlepool.bhcet.org.uk.

Alternatively, if you require a hard copy of this form, please contact the school office on 01429 275040.

Joanne Wilson
Headteacher

CC
Parents
Parish Priest
Diocese
Governors
Staff
Local Authority We
Local schools (circulated by the LA)
Trade Unions
Trust and school website



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**Consultation Letter Lowering the school age at
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School
from 3-11 to 2-11**

Response to St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School consultation form:

I support the proposal to lower the school age at St Cuthbert's from 3-11 to 2-11:
Yes/No

I support the proposal to lower the school age at St Cuthbert's from 3-11 to 2-11:
Yes/No

I do not support proposal to lower the school age at St Cuthbert's from 3-11 to 2-11:
Yes/No

I support the proposal to lower the school age at St Cuthbert's from 3-11 to 2-11:
Yes/No

We would welcome your views;

Please return the above form via email (admin@stcuthbertshartlepool.bhcet.org.uk) or by posting directly to the Headteacher, Mrs Wilson, Stratford Road, Hartlepool, TS25 5AJ by: Friday 27th June 2025.



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