

9th May 2025

Consultation on lowering school age range to pupils aged 2 - 11 years old

As you are aware Chadsmead Primary Academy (part of Community Academies Trust) runs a very successful nursery for 3+ year olds. To enable us to meet the needs of our catchment area, we are now considering expanding our offer to provide spaces for 2-year-olds as well our existing 3-year-olds.

As part of the process, we are conducting a public consultation to gather feedback from parents, staff and the wider community. Your views are essential in shaping this proposal and ensuring it meets the needs of local families.

The Trustees see this as an exciting opportunity which would enable Chadsmead Primary Academy to provide early education and childcare places to children aged 2 and 3 years old. The 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 as they are currently.

Reasons for expansion

- Increase in local demand for Early Years' provision
- Support for school readiness
- Alignment with early childhood education policies

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

We are proposing to extend our current provision by lowering the school's age range to include 2-year-olds (admitting the term after the child turns 2). We would very much like to know the views of parents and other interested members of the community. The setting will be appropriately staffed to meet the statutory adult to child ratios of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

What would the nursery look like?

The extended nursery provision (2-year-olds +) would be accommodated in existing classroom space, but with adaptations to suit the needs of 2-year-old children.

It will be very similar to what is currently available in the 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. 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. The extended provision would follow the same timings as our current nursery.

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 to fulfil 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 9/5/2025 to 6/6/2025.

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 at Chadsmead Primary Academy will be made by the relevant Department of Education Regions Group following the submission of the application by the Trust.

How to share your views

We would welcome your views on the proposal and encourage all stakeholders to participate in the consultation by:

1. Completing the Online Survey available at <https://forms.office.com/e/JHGTuNw0mh>
2. Submitting written feedback via email to office@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk or delivering it to the school office addressed to Mrs Gemma Grainger, Headteacher, Chadsmead Primary Academy, Friday Acre, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7HJ
3. Attending an opportunity to meet with the Headteacher to discuss any matters or questions regarding the proposal on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 9am at Chadsmead Primary Academy, Friday Acre, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7HJ

The closing date for receipt of responses is **6/6/2025**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01543 421850 or at **office@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk**.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grainger".

Mrs G Grainger
Headteacher