

Monday 30th January 2025

Consultation on a proposal to change the age range from three to eleven to two to eleven

Introduction

This paper sets out the proposal to change the age range of the School from three to eleven to two to eleven. It is written for parents, carers, governors, staff, pupils and other people who have an interest in the school and in the proposal. The Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust (OLOG) will consider your views and responses before taking the proposal forward.

Background Information

St Edward's Catholic Primary School is a two-form entry academy school providing primary education. The school is intending to extend its nursery provision to allow the addition of children aged two. The planned new places are expected to be made available from September 2025. There are no capital works planned and an existing room will be repurposed. This room is near to the nursery and will add additional capacity providing a large space providing specialist provision space for two year olds.

The change to the age range is being carried out following the guidance process as detailed in Department for Education non-statutory guidance "Making significant changes to an academy", February 2024.

The Proposal

The proposal is to expand the current Early Years provision to include an offer for children from two years old. The School has expertise in Early Years Foundation Stage provision and the proposal would make a significant difference to allow more children from the age of two, to access the school's provision.

Allowing access to the setting from age two will allow rapid progress with communication, social interaction and self-care. The School plans to offer up to sixteen places per nursery session, which would be equivalent to eight AM spaces and eight PM spaces so a total of sixteen children would benefit. There is potential to increase this once it has been established and reviewed.

The School's Local Governing Body, the Trustees of OLOG and the Diocese of Brentwood have given their support to this proposal to widen the age range of the school.

Policy Priorities

Although the School is an academy this project supports Newham's ambition to ensure every resident under 25 is safe, happy and cared for, with positive activity to secure their long term wellbeing (Pillar 2, Building a Fairer Newham, Newham Corporate Plan).

The Consultation Process

Parents and carers at the school have already been informally consulted and are supportive of the expansion of the provision. They recognise the benefit this has to the diverse and inclusive school community and also that the extra time in the provision would be crucial to children's development.

The formal consultation process that is now being undertaken involves the following steps:

- Publication of Public Notice followed by a six week consultation period.
- Seek the views of parents, carers, governors, staff, pupils and other people who have an interest in the school and in the proposal.
- Take a report to Governors of the School and the Trustees of the Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust to formally decide whether to proceed with the expansion.

How can I make my views known

We would like to receive your comments in writing including your name, signature and address by 3rd May 2024.

We would be pleased to receive emails.

Send all emails headed "St Edward's Consultation" to: info@olog.org.uk

Should you wish to discuss the proposals directly please call 020 4530 9232. Comments can also be sent in writing to:

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