



Thursday 20th April 2023

Dear Parents/ Local Community Residents,

We are beginning a consultation process about Hooton Pagnell All Saints C of E Primary extending from 4-11 years to 3 -11 years so the school can offer nursery provision. The Trust, School, Diocese and Governors believe it is the right time to consider this move.

We are excited about this potential development for Hooton Pagnell, and we would spend the next few months planning and preparing. We would work closely with the Local Authority and the Trust to set up our nursery provision. We have a number of experienced Early Years practitioners within our current team, some of whom have nursery career backgrounds and qualifications.

Benefits for Hooton Pagnell children and families

Research has shown that when schools provide Early Years education, pupils make improved progress as they move between the early stages of learning. School staff are able to share their expertise between early years and Key Stage 1, allowing for consistent progress. The transition becomes a smooth and effective process allowing the children to settle more quickly. Staff can get to know the parents and carers on entry and build on this partnership in the following years. It provides continuity of education and provision through a single leadership team and governing body.

At Hooton Pagnell, Early Years staff would work together across the nursery and reception to provide an excellent environment for young learners' development. In the future, there may be opportunities for improved outdoor provision for nursery and reception children, utilising the school grounds. In addition, the provision of a nursery would have the following benefits:

- The nursery class will have a qualified teacher to support the learning and development of the 3 and 4-year-olds.
- The school nursery will provide an opportunity for children to attend provision on the same site as their older siblings.
- The nursery will have strong, robust safeguarding leadership, protocol, processes and policies, completely aligned with our school systems.
- There will be a stronger transition for children moving from nursery to our Reception cohort.
- There will be an excellent nursery provision that is aligned with our approach to the Early Years curriculum in our Reception classrooms. By using the same approaches for learning areas such as phonics, it offers better consistency for children, which can only help their development and learning.

What the nursery provision would look like

The arrangement would be very similar to that which is currently available to existing reception children in school and there are no plans at this time to extend the current building. There would be high-quality play-



based provision including role play, sand, water, construction, reading, mark making, and outside play. There will be a free flow between areas, including the outdoors, offering children planned learning choices allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development. They will be supported by knowledgeable and appropriately trained adults.

Number of places offered

The proposed nursery class will provide up to 11 full-time equivalents (FTE) places in September 2023. These places will be available to children who have turned 3 between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023. We will take in-year admissions as long as the total number of children eligible for reception class in the following year does not exceed 15 and the total number of nursery and reception children does not exceed 26.

Staff

The school has early years trained staff already on the teaching and non-teaching staff. Some of the existing staff may be deployed in the new nursery and any additional need will be staffed as part of the typical annual whole school staffing deployment.

Funding

The school would receive funding for all pupils who have reached the age of 3 between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023.

Pre-publication consultation

The consultation on this proposal will be for 4 weeks from Thursday 20th April to Thursday 18th May 2023. A meeting will be arranged with all interested parties to explain the proposal and respond to questions. This will take place on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 5pm at Hooton Pagnell Primary School.

Please click on this link to submit your views before Thursday 18th May 2023.
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8VT4KeHEQka2qZeDaxY3_NU6-JpCKSRPrN1H3I3WNNtUREpISDJTTTc2S0pPNUFSS1IKTTA3SFBBS4u

Alternatively, you can submit your comments in writing to the school by email or letter. The deadline for receiving responses to this consultation is Thursday 18th May 2023.

As always, thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H Thorpe'.

Mrs Helen Thorpe

Interim Head Teacher