



Consultation on a proposal to lower the age range at Bishop Loveday Church of England Primary School to include Pre-School Provision

26th April 2024 to 19th May 2024

Bishop Loveday Church of England Primary school is a village school in Bodicote, on the edge of Banbury, which welcomes children from the village of Bodicote,, from surrounding villages and from the town of Banbury.

We are part of The Warriner Multi Academy Trust.

The school was last inspected by Ofsted on 12th and 13th October 2021 and was graded Good.

We are a two form entry school, with 14 classes from Reception to Year 6, offering educational provision for children from age 4 to 11 years old. In response to an identified need within our local catchment area and beyond, we wish to extend our provision to include three year old children.

What is being proposed?

Bishop Loveday Church of England Primary School proposes to extend its provision by one year to offer nursery provision for up to 36 children in a pre-school. The pre-school will have a dedicated building, located next to the reception classes, enabling children across EYFS to share some of the outside spaces.

Our proposed start date for this provision is Monday 9th September 2024, subject to us having received the necessary approval for a formal age range extension from the DfE in sufficient time.

The proposed pre-school will:

- be run by a qualified teacher, supported by a teaching assistant qualified at Level 3, and other suitably qualified staff as needed.
- have a maximum adult pupil ratio of 1:13
- offer nursery places during school term time only and within our extended school day, between 7:45am and 6:00pm, Monday to Friday
- offer nursery places on both a part time basis (15 hours) and full time basis (up to 30 hours), up to the equivalent of 36 full time nursery places.
- have a dedicated building and play area, within our school site, which includes indoor classroom/learning space with and its own secure outdoor learning area, and access to the reception outdoor area (when appropriate)
- Offer wrap-around care, including breakfast club, lunch club and after school club.

Following this consultation, and if our proposal is accepted by the relevant authorities, we will be applying for government funded hours. These are currently available for up to 30 hours per week for all attending nursery children from the term after their third birthday.

The pre-school classroom will be a stand-alone building, situated adjacent to the current reception classes (EYFS). It will have a designated outside area, solely for use by the pre-school children. Children will also have access to the EYFS outside areas, alongside the children in the reception classes.

Reasons for the proposal

Our proposal has been formulated in response to a local provision need, partly driven by extensive housing developments in the wider vicinity, which has been confirmed by the local authority (Oxfordshire) and is reflected in their sufficiency data.

Establishing a pre-school will enable us to provide an education for our youngest children, within a learning environment and approach shaped wholly around the

principles and practice of the Early Years Framework, incorporating a rich and varied thematic approach to the curriculum.

For those families whose children continue at our school after their nursery years, it will provide the opportunity for us to get to know you and your child much earlier, identifying and responding to their emerging learning needs and providing consistency in their learning journey. Your child will be supported to build strong relationships with familiar adults who understand them and to develop their social skills and early friendships that may continue throughout their time at school.

We strongly believe that extending our own provision to include children of nursery age will be of benefit to both the school and families within the community. **Attending the Bishop Loveday pre-school does not automatically give your child a place at Bishop Loveday, in the September after their 4th Birthday.**

Bishop Loveday currently receives children from up to 24 different pre-school settings. We currently work very closely with our local nursery, Kingsfield Nursery, which provides nursery places for 2 to 4 year olds. We would look forward to continuing to develop this working relationship, with an understanding that some of our children will attend sessions within both settings.

Additional Information

- We have approval in principle from The Trustees of the Warriner Multi-academy Trust. The pre-school proposal is going to the full board of trustees, for approval, on 8th May 2024
- Across the Trust, we have extensive experience of delivering high quality nursery provision and will ensure that this expertise is made fully available for this new setting.
- We have approval in principle from The Academy Committee of Bishop Loveday Church of England Primary School. The pre-school proposal is going to the full board of academy committee members, for approval, on 14th May 2024
- We feel that the continuity of educational setting would be beneficial to the children's learning when they transition from preschool education to a more formal education. We recognise that there is a definite need for

such provision within the area and we are convinced that the school is in an ideal position to fill that gap.

- This consultation is taking place until 19th May 2024. You have until midnight on that date to respond.
- The next step, after consideration of consultation responses, would be for a final decision on our extension of provision to be confirmed by the Regional Schools Commissioner (Department for Education).

How you can respond to this consultation:

Information regarding this consultation is available on the home page of the school's website and can be accessed by following this link:

www.bishop-loveday.oxon.sch.uk

We would like to hear from you, both if you support this proposal and if you have any concerns or questions.

There are a number of ways you can participate in this consultation:

- Directly via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/6r1SakSUyU>
- email your response to: office.3351@bishop-loveday.oxon.sch.uk putting **Early Years provision** in the subject line
- hand in a written response to the school's reception office
Please respond by 19th May, 2024