



“Everything is possible for the person who has faith” Mark 9.23

Formal Consultation to lower the age range of Aston All Saints CE Primary School to 3- 11 years from 1st September 2025

Aston All Saints CE Primary School is an Ofsted graded ‘Good’ school.

This consultation is regarding the proposal to lower the age range of Aston All Saints CE Primary School to 3-11 years from 1st September 2025.

Why are we proposing to lower the age range?

The movement of bringing the nursery within school will further strengthen the quality of education provided at the school by achieving better outcomes for children who will have access to a qualified teacher from the age of 3, and will access a sequenced curriculum, enabling progression from nursery to FS2. We believe it is particularly important that progression in our phonics curriculum starts in nursery and moves through into FS2 and KS1. The school plans to offer 2 sessions, morning and afternoon (26 pupils per session), including access to 30-hour provision.

Whilst there is no guarantee that children attending the nursery will gain a place at the school, those who apply and are successful in gaining a place in the reception class will have benefited from being pupils of the school from a much earlier age. The school would like the opportunity to have educated these children directly from the start of their early education entitlement, meaning a smoother transition into the school should the decision be made by parents to apply. The Department for Education (DfE) continue to support high-quality school- based nursery places for 3 and 4 year olds. The Department stated that ‘the first few years of a child’s life are critical to shaping their future development, and our ambition is to provide equality of opportunity for every child, regardless of background or where they live, because we know that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility.’ It is widely acknowledged that a primary school which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children.

What are the reasons for the proposed change?

There are many reasons why we are proposing to lower the age at Aston All Saints CE Primary School. The main ones are summarised below:

1. The proposals are in response to recommendations made by Ofsted, Department for Education and Save the Children to encourage more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 3 and 4 year olds, allowing more children to access high quality provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.
2. Children will become pupils of the school, allowing access to Early Years Provision with an ‘Good’ Ofsted rating and whilst there is no guarantee of a place within the school from Reception, those children who are successful in applying for a school place will be used to the school environment, teacher staff and ethos. We aim for education in the nursery to be provided by a qualified teacher improving individual pupils’ early learning and development opportunities.



THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD ACADEMIES TRUST

Aston All Saints C of E School is part of The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust, which is an exempt charity regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number 08745639), whose registered office is at Flanderwell Early Excellence Centre, Greenfield Court, Flanderwell, Rotherham, S66 2JF

School e-mail: enquiries@aasp.dsat.education Tel: 01142872100 School website: www.astoncofe.co.uk Headteacher: Mrs R Webster Executive Headteacher: Mrs D Ball

Postal address: Aston All Saints C of E Primary School, Lodge Lane, Aston, Sheffield, S26 2BL

3. Staff appointed to work within the nursery class will have access to training alongside colleagues across the whole of EYFS and Key Stage 1. There may be opportunities to work within all year groups sharing experience benefiting children throughout the school. A trained teacher from our school staff team will teach in our nursery provision.
4. Children and families in the nursery will have access to support services at the school, which may include SEND support.
5. We are the only church school in our local area, and parents do not currently have the choice to send their child to a nursery school locally which is a Diocese school.
6. Many of our FS2 pupils attend a local F1 provider which is not within walking distance of the school. This puts our most disadvantaged pupils at risk of opting out of F1 provision.
7. The consultation to lower the age range from September 2025 is in line with the DfE and LA changes to funded places in the local area and in recognition of the fact that the Local Authority has informed us that there will be a shortage of places in the 2025 academic year. We have chosen to consult for September 2025 rather than September 2024 in line with LA priorities.

How will the proposed change benefit pupils of Aston All Saints CE Primary School?

If the proposal is approved, the change could bring many benefits for pupils. The main ones are summarised below:

1. Aston All Saints CE Primary School will be able to build upon the high-quality education provided for their current pupils between the ages of 4-7yrs. Children will have access to a carefully planned curriculum which will meet the needs of the children and the community. There will be a continuation of the school's strong whole school curriculum intent in the nursery and throughout the school where high-quality texts lie at the heart of the curriculum delivery. This will support children's communication, language and literacy development, particularly their phonics and early reading development. Our aim is for nursery children to be taught by a trained teacher.
2. The classroom and outdoor provision will be developed to have a focus on physical development and communication and language development and will therefore support all children as they progress through each key stage.
3. There will be opportunities for continuity for pupils who choose to enrol for primary provision at Aston All Saints CE Primary School, to remain in an environment with which they are familiar - from early years through to year 6 should they wish. Existing networks will be in place, and they will be taught by teachers and school leaders who know them well and have developed relationships with them and their families from a young age.
4. Parents will be able to choose a nursery provision which has a distinctively Christian ethos, which is currently unavailable for them in the local area.

Submission of feedback to the consultation

It is important that all stakeholders and other interested parties are given the opportunity to express their views in order for Aston All Saints CE Primary School and our trust Diocese of Sheffield Academy Trust (DSAT) to consider these before making a final decision. The consultation period will begin on **Monday 18th December 2023 and will end on Friday 2nd February 2024.**

The purpose of this document is to provide you with information and to give you the opportunity to express your views.



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Feedback can be given via email: nurseryeducation@aasp.dsat.education no later than midnight on **Friday 2nd February 2024**.

All responses to the consultation will be reported to and considered by Aston All Saints CE Primary School and our Trust, The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust (DSAT). We welcome your feedback.

What are the next steps?

- Monday 18th December 2023 Consultation period starts
- Friday 2nd February 2024 Consultation closes

If decision is made to go ahead with the proposal: 1st September 2025 the school's age range is lowered, and early years aged children begin accessing maintained nursery provision. ***Prospective parents may apply for a place through the school office.***



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