



**High Halstow
Primary Academy**

High Halstow Primary Academy

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Principal: Mrs G Stangroom

24th June 2024

Dear parents/carers, students, staff, governors and other interested parties

Proposed change to High Halstow Primary Academy, Harrison Drive, High Halstow, Rochester to alter the age range from 4-11 years to 3-11 years from September 2025 or thereafter by adding a nursery provision.

1. Introduction

Leigh Academies Trust (LAT), is seeking the views of parents/carers, staff and other stakeholders on a proposal to permanently lower the age range of the academy from 4-11 years to 3-11 years, by developing a new nursery provision. This document is part of a consultation process which opens on Monday 24th June 2024 and closes on 15th July 2024. **At the end of the consultation period a decision will be taken by the Advisory Board of the Regional Director's Office on whether to proceed with the proposed change of age range.**

2. Why are we proposing to expand the academy's age range and add a nursery?

Meeting Community Needs. High Halstow Primary was judged "outstanding" in all areas by Ofsted in 2023. In the academy's local area there is a growing need for high-quality nursery places. The government is currently investing heavily in increasing childcare provision, with initiatives like expanding free childcare hours for working parents. By adding nursery provision, we can position ourselves to benefit from this investment and support a growing need for local families.

Stronger Relationships with Families: Offering high-quality nursery provision creates an opportunity to build relationships with families earlier. This fosters trust and allows for a more collaborative approach to a child's education from the very beginning.

Further Enhanced Staff Expertise: A school with a combined nursery and primary programme can foster a richer learning environment for staff as well. Teachers can share best practices and expertise across different age groups, leading to a more well-rounded approach to education.

Continuity of Care and Curriculum: By extending the age range, the academy will be able to further establish a consistent approach to early childhood education. This allows for a seamless curriculum flow from nursery to reception, ensuring a strong foundation for future learning for our future pupils. LAT has considerable experience of developing this model very successfully in other locations, such as at nearby Peninsula East Primary Academy where Ofsted recently judged early years provision to be "outstanding".



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Smoother Transition. A nursery within the same environment can create a familiar and comfortable space for children as they transition from nursery to reception. This familiarity can help reduce anxiety and ease the process of starting primary school.

3. Where will the nursery children be accommodated?

Our nursery age children will be accommodated within the modular building on site which is currently used for the same purpose, by High Halstow Pre-School. Unlike now, these children will also be able to access the whole academy site, including areas like the library, dining hall, art studio, sensory room and the current Early Years indoor and outdoors spaces.

4. How will the school deal with any possible increased traffic and congestion?

The academy's travel plan would need to be updated and would be utilised by the academy to encourage families to find alternative ways of travelling to the academy in order to reduce the number of car journeys. There is already an existing small provision that rents current academy space and this has not had a detrimental impact on the local area's traffic. The academy also benefits from two access points which help relieve any increased traffic at academy opening and closure times. The nursery provision would also operate at an earlier and later start and finish time than the main academy which would stagger the arrival times of parents.

5. When will the nursery phase open?

We are targeting a September 2025 opening for the nursery phase. However, if circumstances allow, we would be happy to expedite the opening to as early as January 2025.

6. The consultation process

The public consultation process begins on Monday 24th June 2024 and ends on Monday 15th July 2024. We welcome any comments that you would like to raise related to this proposal.

Please use [this form](#) to submit your views. **All responses must be received by Monday 15th July at 5pm.**

A 'drop in' information session will be held from 3.15pm to 3.45pm on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at High Halstow Primary Academy. There will be no need to confirm attendance, just report to reception on arrival.

Mrs G Stangroom

Principal