



"My soul glorifies the Lord" Luke 1:46

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
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Friday 26th July

Consultation on proposed changes to Saint Mary's Nursery Provision

Dear Stakeholder,

As you are aware, Saint Mary's was judged to be 'requires improvement' in all areas at our Ofsted inspection in May 2024. As a result of the inspection a number of changes are necessary to improve teaching, learning and the educational experiences and outcomes of the children at Saint Mary's.

One area that changes need to be made in, to improve outcomes, is within Saint Mary's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The following changes are necessary:

- To withdraw the provision for two year olds from **1st January 2025**
- To streamline the sessions attended by three and four year olds from **1st September 2025**

Saint Mary's currently offers five places for two year olds. The staffing ratios required for two year olds are incredibly high and as a result have a significant financial implication on the school budget. The statutory requirements on staffing for two year olds is having a detrimental impact on the staffing levels elsewhere in school, meaning the level of support and intervention for school aged children is compromised. The withdrawal of the two year old Nursery provision, from 1st January 2025, is essential to improve outcomes across the rest of the school and to allow the better deployment of staff.

Saint Mary's Nursery is a maintained Nursery, it is not a private day care, and therefore needs to operate in a more streamlined manner to ensure that learning opportunities are well planned and sequential. Saint Mary's currently allows parents and carers to select the sessions across the week that they wish their child to attend, resulting in the mix of children on each day of the week being different making it difficult to plan purposeful learning experiences. From 1st September 2025, only 15 and 30 hour places will be offered with three set options. Parents will be able to select one of the following options:

1. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning (15 hours)
2. Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday (15 hours)
3. Monday to Friday (30 hours)

We would welcome your feedback on the changes and would ask that any feedback and comments are submitted via the link below by 23rd August 2024.

Click [here](#) to provide feedback.

Change will be necessary to bring about improvement.

Kind regards,

Val Bridge
Chair of Governors

Martine Gum
Executive Headteacher