

Appendix 4 - Kitwell School Consultation Responses

Response ID	Type of Respondent	In favour?	Comments:
ANON-37QJ-49ZG-K	School Governor	Yes	<p>From September 2017, the Government committed to double the amount of free childcare available to working parents of 3 and 4-year olds, from 15 to 30 hours. This resulted in a fall in the number of children attending the nursery class at Kitwell Primary School as parents were able to use the extra hours more flexibly with private day nurseries, registered childminders and out-of-school clubs. At Kitwell, numbers fell from 30 children in 2018-19 to just 19 children in 2019-20. This resulted in the nursery recording a £20,000+ deficit in 2019-20. This is unsustainable over the longer term.</p> <p>Although the Governing Board took the decision to close the nursery class (in order to protect the wider school budget), it did so in the knowledge that there was an over provision of nursery places in the Bartley Green ward, and across adjoining wards. The 26 full-time equivalent places at Kitwell would easily be absorbed by other providers in the locale, principally St Michaels CE Primary School and Doddington Green private day nursery, both of which were under-subscribed.</p> <p>The Governing Board was also acutely aware that it has a core function of "overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure money is well spent"</p> <p>Moreover, Birmingham City Council's School Financial Services (who provide Kitwell's bursary service) has repeatedly stated in its budget reports that, "The Department for Education and the Local Authority require Head Teachers...along with Governing Bodies to ensure a consistent, robust and effective approach to financial management at an operational and strategic level in all maintained schools."</p> <p>Taken together, the closure of the nursery class at Kitwell Primary School is pragmatic as it will more than halve the forecast budget deficit for 2020-21 and will help the Governing Board focus on reducing deficits in the ensuing years.</p>
ANON-37QJ-49Z3-Y	School Governor	Yes	<p>The governing body have spent a long time deliberating over the proposed deficit budget at Kitwell and unfortunately, the nursery's long term future is not financially feasible. There is a clear surplus of local early years provision for 3-4 year olds and so there is no necessity to retain the nursery.</p> <p>The closure of the nursery is now necessary to help secure the future financial viability of the school. The availability of local nursery provision is not likely to be negatively impacted.</p>
ANON-37QJ-49ZU-1	other governor	Yes	<p>Falling number of Kids enrolling into Nursery</p> <p>Deficit caused because of the short enrolling into nursery had a negative impact on the school's complete funding.</p> <p>Enough providers in the surrounding area to cover the small amount of kids that were due to come into Kitwell.</p>