

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER AND CHIEF OFFICER

TUESDAY, 08 JUNE 2021 AT 00:00 HOURS
IN CABINET MEMBERS OFFICE, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA
SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 - 26

- 1 **PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE AGE RANGE TO REMOVE NURSERY**
PROVISION AT ST BENEDICT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Director of Education & Skills

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet Member for Education Skills and Culture

June 2021



Subject: PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE AGE RANGE TO REMOVE NURSERY PROVISION AT ST BENEDICT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Report of: Director of Education and Skills

Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Jayne Francis, Education Skills and Culture

Relevant O &S Chair(s): Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner, Education & Children's Social Care

Report author: Jaswinder Didially
Head of Service Education Infrastructure;
Telephone No: 0121 303 8847
Email
Address: Jaswinder.didially@birmingham.gov.uk

Are specific wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Small Heath		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

1 Executive Summary

1.1 To seek the determination of a statutory proposal to:

Alter the age range of St Benedict's Primary School from 3 – 11 years to become 4 -11 years to remove the nursery provision.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture;
Approve, having taken into account the statutory guidance, the statutory proposal to alter the age range to remove the nursery provision at St Benedict's Primary School with effect from 31st August 2021.

3 Background

- 3.1 St Benedict's Primary School is a community primary school with an admission number in reception of 60. The school is situated in the Small Heath ward in the Hodge Hill district of the City. The age range of the school is 3 – 11 years. The school has a 26 full time equivalent (FTE) nursery class that can offer 52 part time nursery places.
- 3.2 The Governing Body of St Benedict's Primary School wrote to Birmingham City Council requesting that a proposal be made to remove the nursery provision by a change to the age range of the school.
- 3.3 The school has been working in collaboration with the Early Years and Childcare Team at the Local Authority who support the proposal to close the nursery.
- 3.4 The Local Authority is proposing to alter the age range of St Benedict's Primary School from 3 -11 years to become 4 – 11 years to remove the nursery provision.
- 3.5 The nursery has been operating at approximately 50% capacity. There are currently 26 pupils on roll in the nursery. All pupils are due to leave at the end of the current academic year, in July 2021.
- 3.6 There are currently 11 pupils on the waiting list. All parents who applied for a place for their child in the nursery and are on the waiting list for September 2021 were advised, on application that the Local Authority would be consulting on the closure of the nursery with effect from 31st August 2021. All parents of pupils on the waiting list were consulted during both the pre-publication and the statutory consultation phases of this proposal.
- 3.7 Parents of pupils on the waiting list were advised to apply for places for their children at alternative early years settings in the event that the proposal to close the nursery is approved. The school and the Local Authority Early Years and Childcare Team will be able to advise and support parents to find alternative places should the proposal be approved.
- 3.8 There is an over-supply of 372 part time equivalent Early Education and Childcare places (0 to 4 age range) in the Small Heath ward in which St Benedict's Primary School is situated.
- 3.9 There are an additional 5 nursery classes managed by Primary Schools, 5 local private, voluntary and independent childcare providers and 6 childminders

operating within the Small Heath Ward. There is also a significant oversupply of 2,259 part time equivalent Early Education and Childcare places (0 to 4 age range) in the wards that surround the Small Heath Ward i.e. Heartlands, Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath East, Bordesley Green and Tyseley and Hay Mills. The closure of the nursery may contribute to the sustainability of other nursery providers in the area.

- 3.10 The nursery provision is currently funded through Early Education Entitlement funding for eligible 3 and 4 year-olds based on actual termly attendance. Due to the low numbers on roll, the cost of providing the nursery provision at St Benedict's Primary School, costs more than the amount of money received. If a nursery is financially unviable, there is a risk that this can impact the budget of the school.
- 3.11 There are no safeguarding concerns resulting from the closure of the nursery.
- 3.12 There will be no staff reductions resulting from this proposal. The school is currently transitioning from an infant school to a primary school and the school will have another year group to staff from September 2021. Should the proposal to close the nursery be approved all staff will be redeployed within the school.
- 3.13 The nursery accommodation will be used as teaching space for KS1 and KS2 classes.
- 3.14 In compliance with DFE guidance and best practice, a pre-publication letter was sent out on 22nd February 2021 to stakeholders, including parents/carers of pupils of the school, advising of the forthcoming statutory consultation and inviting any initial questions or comments to be directed to the school or the Estates Management Team (Education Infrastructure). A copy of the pre-publication letter can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.15 Emails were also sent to a wider range of stakeholders including Local Councillors and neighbouring authorities. Two responses were received to the emails, one from a Local Councillor requesting information as to why the nursery was closing and the other from Worcestershire County Council advising that they had no comments to make as the closure did not impact them. An email was sent directly to the Local Councillor with information and Worcestershire County Council's comments were noted.
- 3.16 A statutory notice and proposal were published with a representation period between 22nd April 2021 and 20th May 2021 (four weeks) and commenced with the publication of the statutory notice in the Birmingham Post. During the four-week representation period, comments on the proposal could be submitted in writing to Education Infrastructure, via the BeHeard webpages, email or letter. A copy of the full proposal and the public notice can be found in **Appendices 2 & 3**.
- 3.17 At the close of the representation period 10 responses were received, of which 3 were in favour and 7 were opposed to the proposal. Copies of the anonymised comments can be found in **Appendix 4** of this report.

- 3.18 Details of both the internal and external stakeholders consulted and the means by which the consultations were carried out are detailed in section 5 of this report.
- 3.19 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Regulation 7 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (the Prescribed Alterations Regulations) state that the Local Authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State when making a decision on such proposals. The relevant statutory guidance is attached (**Appendix 6**). The Education and Inspections Act 2006, and Paragraph 5 of Schedule 3 to the Prescribed Alterations Regulations allows for the proposals to be approved, approved with modification, approved subject to meeting a prescribed condition, or rejected.
- 3.20 If the proposal is approved, the age range of St Benedict's Primary School will change to 4 – 11 years and the nursery provision will be removed with effect from 31st August 2021.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 It is recommended that the proposal to alter the age range of St Benedict's Primary School to 4 – 11 years to remove the nursery be approved. The proposal to remove the nursery would ensure that there is no financial strain on the school budget from the school subsidising the running costs of the nursery class. The proposal will allow the school to focus their time and finances on Key Stage 1 and 2 provision.
- 4.2 Should the proposal be rejected, the nursery provision will continue to be subsidised from the school budget. There would be a risk that the school budget could fall into serious deficit over time which could have a wider impact on standards, finances and ultimately the future of the school.

5 Consultation

5.1 Internal

During the statutory consultation period, information about the proposal was sent to:

- Ward Councillor Small Heath ward.
- Ward Councillors of wards within the Hodge Hill District
- Officers from services across Birmingham City Council including Admissions, Finance, School and Governor Support, Early Years and Childcare, Human Resources, Legal, Planning, Research and Statistics Information Officers for Education and Skills.

Details of the responses received and outcome of the statutory consultation is set out in **Appendix 4**. The Ward Councillors consulted, and the date and method of consultation is set out in **Appendix 5**.

5.2 External

5.2.1 The proposal has been fully consulted upon in line with the requirements set out in the statutory guidance “Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained schools” (October 2018) published by the Department for Education (DfE). Department for Education guidance for decision makers can be found in **Appendix 6**.

5.2.2 During the pre-statutory consultation period, information about the proposal was publicised to the parents/families, teaching staff, and non-teaching staff of the school.

During the statutory consultation period, information about the proposal was publicised to all stakeholders consulted during the pre-statutory period and the following additional consultees:

- Birmingham Schools
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- The Archdiocesan and The Anglican Diocese of Birmingham
- Professional Associations and Trade Unions
- Local Councillor for Small Heath Ward
- Local Councillors of wards within the Hodge Hill district.
- Member of Parliament for Hodge Hill
- Department for Education – School Organisation

5.2.3 The information was publicised in the following ways:

- Public notice in Birmingham Post newspaper
- On Birmingham City Council BeHeard webpage
- On the school’s webpages
- On the Birmingham City Council School Notice Board
- Emails to stakeholders and groups

5.2.4 A copy of the full proposal document can be found in **Appendix 2** and the Public Notice in **Appendix 3**. The outcome of the external consultation is set out in Section 3 of this report and a copy of the anonymised responses is in **Appendix 4**.

6 Risk Management

6.1 Should the proposal to change the age range to 4 – 11 years to remove the nursery provision not be approved, the nursery class at the school will remain. If the nursery continues to operate with no pupils or at low capacity and the school continues to subsidise the nursery from the whole school budget, this would risk the school budget deficit increasing which could impact on the quality of education and ultimately the future of the school.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council’s priorities, plans and strategies?

- 7.1.1 There is currently a large over supply of Early Education and Childcare provision (0 to 4 age) in the local area surrounding St Benedict's Primary School i.e. Small Heath and neighbouring wards. A school with a large number of unfilled nursery places can be a risk to the financial viability and sustainability of the nursery which can impact the budget of the school. There is currently sufficient supply to fulfil our statutory duty.

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 This report exercises powers contained within sections 19 and 21 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 to the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (the "Prescribed Alterations Regulations"), whereby the Local Authority of a Community School can propose to alter the age range to remove the nursery provision by following a statutory process. Under the Prescribed Alterations Regulations, the Local Authority is the decision maker for this statutory proposal.

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 At the end of the 2019/20 financial year St Benedict's had a cumulative deficit of £752,845. The schools recent budget plan for the financial year 2021/22, which was approved in March 2021, was estimating a cumulative deficit of £635,454 at the end of March 2021 and then a cumulative deficit of £537,705 at the end of March 2022.

The final figures for 2020/21 have not been confirmed yet and are therefore subject to change. Recently reviewed information indicates that this may have reduced to a cumulative deficit of £528,272 at the end of March 2021.

The nursery has been operating with approximately 50% unfilled places. For academic year 2020/21 they took in an average of 26 pupils per term. The forecasted number on roll in the nursery for September 2021 is much less. Closing the nursery should relieve any future pressure on the school budget.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

Not applicable.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

- 7.5.1 All permanent nursery staff will continue to have the opportunity for alternative roles within the school. The school is currently transitioning from an infant school to a primary school and will have another year group to staff in September 2021. The nursery staff will be deployed into other roles in the school and will mitigate the need for any redundancies or for the school to employ further teaching staff.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.6.1 An updated Equality Assessment initial screening was carried out in October 2018 (EQUA221) for the School Organisation Change process, which identified that a full impact assessment was not required. No events have occurred since then

which would require the preparation of a fresh screening in respect of these recommendations.

8 Background Documents

8.1 List of Documents

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- School Organisation regulations 2013
- Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools: "Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers" published by the Department for Education (DfE) October 2018.

8.2 List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

- 1. Pre-publication consultation letter
- 2. Full Proposal Document
- 3. Public Notice
- 4. Statutory Consultation Results
- 5. Ward Councillors Consulted.
- 6. Guidance for Decision Makers



Date: 22nd February 2021

To Parents, Carers, Staff and Other Stakeholders,
St Benedict's Primary School

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Other Stakeholders

I am writing to inform you of the proposals that Birmingham City Council are planning on publishing following a request from the Governing Body of St Benedict's Primary School

As you are aware the school currently operates a 26 full time equivalent nursery class which can offer 52 part time places for 3 and 4 year olds.

The number of pupils attending the nursery at the school has been lower in recent years. This is due to both the falling birth rate and there being a large supply of early education provision in the local area. The nursery has been operating at approximately 50% or less capacity in recent terms. This has financial implications as the cost of providing the nursery is more than the amount of money received. Nurseries operating with a large number of unfilled places can be a risk to the financial viability and sustainability of the nursery which can impact the budget of the school.

The school has been collaborating with Birmingham City Council and has agreed to consult on the closure of the nursery with effect from 31st August 2021

Birmingham City Council will be consulting on proposals to remove the nursery provision. We will write to you again at the start of next term, after the Easter break with details of the formal consultation (also known as the representation period).

The formal consultation will run for four weeks. It is during this time that you will have the opportunity to formally let us know what you think about the proposed changes to the School. At the start of this formal consultation we will be providing a final proposal document on a BeHeard consultation website which will have full details of the planned changes and information on how you can participate in the consultation and make your views known.

If you have any immediate comments or concerns please contact the school or email Birmingham City Council School Organisation Team, **Friday 19th March 2021** via:
edsj.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk and include St Benedict's in the subject.

Yours sincerely,

Jaswinder Didially
Head of Service
Education Infrastructure



Full Proposal Document

St Benedict's Primary School

Proposal to alter the age range to remove nursery provision.

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, in collaboration with the Governing Body of the school, is consulting on the following changes to St Benedict's Primary School (a community school).

School Information

Type:	Community		
Name:	St Benedict's Primary School	DFE:	3302183
Address:	St Benedict's Road, Birmingham B10 9DP		
Ward:	Small Heath	District:	Hodge Hill
Age Range:	3 – 11 years	Capacity:	372 excluding the nursery.
Last Ofsted:	6 th June 2013	Ofsted Rating	Good

Nursery Capacity:

Capacity of nursery provision:	52 (part time equivalent)
Full time equivalent:	26
Current nursery attendance:	26 (September 2020)

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to St Benedict's Primary School:

- Alter the lower age limit from 3 years to become 4 years;
- This would change the age range of the school to be 4 – 11 years.
- This would result in the removal of nursery provision.

Why do we want to do this?

The number attending the nursery at the school has been lower in recent years. This is due to there being a large supply of nursery provision in the local area. Last year and in previous years, the nursery had been operating at approximately 50% capacity. This year, from September 2020, there are currently 26 children on roll in the nursery. This has financial implications as the cost of providing the nursery is more than the amount of money received. Nurseries operating with a large number of unfilled places can be a risk to the financial viability and sustainability of the nursery which can impact the budget of the school. If the school experiences financial deficit, this can impact on staffing, standards and attainment and affect the performance of the school. The proposed change will support the school to focus their time and finances on Key stage 1 and 2 (infant and junior phases).

Evidence of Demand:

Small Heath

- There is an over-supply of 372 part time equivalent Early Education and Childcare places (0 to 4 age range) in the Small Heath ward in which St Benedict's Primary School is situated.
- There are an additional 5 nursery classes managed by Primary Schools, 5 local private, voluntary and independent childcare providers and 6 childminders operating within the Small Heath Ward.

- There is also a significant oversupply of 2,259 part time equivalent Early Education and Childcare places (0 to 4 age range) in the wards that surround the Small Heath Ward i.e. Heartlands, Sparkhill and Balsall Heath East, Bordesley Green and Tyseley and Hay Mills.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers at Birmingham City Council, it is intended that the proposal will be implemented from **31st August 2021**

Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?

Other nursery providers in the area may find that they have increased applications. There is sufficient provision to accommodate the local need.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

There are no safeguarding concerns for any of the pupils that may be affected. There are currently 26 pupils on roll in the nursery class at the school, these are all part time. There will be limited impact on other pupils of the school.

Parents applying for places have been advised that there are proposals to close the nursery and have been advised to also look at alternative places should the closure of the school's nursery class be approved. The school and the Local Authority Early Years Team will be able to advise and support parents to find alternative places should the proposal be approved.

Note: The admission arrangements at the school are not affected by this proposal. Attendance at a nursery provision does not give pupils any priority to admission into the school's reception class.

How will this affect staff?

There will be no staff reductions. The nursery staff will be redeployed within the school to alternative roles of the same grade. There will be no change to the terms and conditions of the staff.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There is no building work needed for this proposal. The current nursery space will continue to be available and used for teaching within the school.

What are the project costs for this proposal and how is it funded?

There are no project costs associated with this proposal. The nursery provision is currently funded through Early Education Entitlement funding for eligible 3 and 4 year olds based on actual termly attendance. It is intended that the removal of nursery provision from the school would provide savings and would avoid any pressure on the whole school budget.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools.

Part One: Pre-Publication 22nd February 2021 to 19th March 2021

We sent a pre-publication letter to all parents, pupils and staff on 22nd February 2021, asking for any comments by 19th March 2021. Comments from part one of the process are for the attention of LA officers developing the proposal (these comments are not forwarded to the decision maker).

We received two responses during this time, one of which was responded to directly and the other was from a neighbouring Local Authority advising that they had no comment to make on the proposal.

Part Two: Statutory Consultation(Representation Stage) 22nd April to 20th May 2021

- We are now entering the four-week statutory consultation also referred to as “the representation period”.
- This consultation will run from **22nd April 2021 to 20th May 2021**.
- A public notice will be published in the Birmingham Post newspaper on 22nd April 2021, this is a statutory requirement.
- This document is the full proposal for statutory consultation. All comments we receive during this statutory period will be anonymised and forwarded to the decision makers for consideration.
- Within two months of the end of the representation period, by **20th July 2021** Birmingham City Council’s Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture will make a decision.

It is only after the decision that we will be able to say with certainty whether or not the proposal will be implemented. A letter will be sent to the Governing Body and Head Teacher to notify them of the decision. The school will share the decision with families and staff of the school. The decision will also be published on the consultation webpage in the details below.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, St Benedict’s Primary School will continue to have an age range of 3 to 11 years; and continue to offer nursery provision.

Alternative solutions to the sustainability of the nursery provision would need to be explored to relieve any financial pressure this causes to the school budget.

How can I make my views known?

We invite all interested parties to give us their views and comment on this proposal.

Any comments must be received between 22nd April 2021 and 20th May 2021.

You can submit your written comments via the following methods:

- Online survey:
<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/stbenedictsnursery>
- By email (with St Benedict’s in the subject):
edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
- Using the attached form or by letter to:

Estates Management Team – Education Infrastructure
 Birmingham City Council
 PO Box 15843
 Birmingham B2 2RT

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	22 nd April 2021
Beginning of 4-week consultation period	22 nd April 2021
End of 4-week consultation period	20 th May 2021
Final decision to be made no later than	20 th July 2021
Changes implemented	31 st August 2021

Proposal to:

Change the age range of St Benedict's Primary School to remove nursery provision

Consultation Response Form

Please help us to analyse your response by completing the following:

Your name (optional*): _____

Your contact details (optional, if you would like a reply*)

Are you in favour of the proposal (please circle one answer)?

Yes	No		Neither/Don't know
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Your interest in the proposal (please indicate one of the below):

Pupil	
Parent	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local Resident	
Local Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please specify)	

*Personal details are used by Birmingham City Council for the purpose of this consultation only. Your details are not shared publicly or with any other organisation or company.

Your comments



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
School Organisation Proposal

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Birmingham City Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to St Benedict's Primary School (community school) St Benedict's Road, Birmingham B10 9DP, with effect from 31st August 2021, namely to alter the lower age limit of the School from age 3 years to become age 4 years. This proposal would change the age range to become 4 – 11 years resulting in the removal of nursery provision from the School.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal document. Copies of the complete proposal can be found at: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/stbenedictsnursery>

If you require a hard copy, this can be obtained by writing to: Estate Management Team, Education Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT or via email to eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal. Anyone who wishes to make representations about this proposal should do so through the above web site or by writing to the Estate Management Team at the above postal or email address. Please include the name of the school in the subject line of any correspondence. The date by which objections or comments must be received is 20th May 2021.

Signed: Jaswinder Didially, Head of Education Infrastructure

Dated: 22nd April 2021.

Appendix 4 : School Organisation Consultation Responses – St Benedict's.

Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis

Summary Table

Number of responses	10
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Method of response	
BeHeard	8
Email	2
Letter	0

Number in favour or against the proposal	
In favour	7
Against	3
Don't know	0
Not indicated	0

Respondent by type	
Parent	2
Pupil	1
Member of Staff	2
Local resident	5
Local Councillor	0

Comment Themes	
Difficult to get children to different schools if nursery closes.	2/10
Children will go to neighbouring all through academy in future if nursery closes.	2/10
Nursery should stay open	2/10
Great school for children with special educational needs	2/10
Many other nurseries available locally.	2/10
Nursery important for pupil's start in life/development.	2/10

School Organisation: St Benedict's Primary School Consultation Responses by email.

Email One

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Edsi Enquiries <edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: St.benedicts primary school

To whom it may concern

I am sending you this email regarding st.benedicts nursery closure. All the children from my family and friends went to st.benedicts school. I still have a child who attend this school. My youngest child started school from nursery and now he is in year [REDACTED]. I think it's a shame to close the nursery. When nursery closed more pupils will leave st.benedicts school. I know that for fact, that my children started school from nursery and then carry on from there. If council close nursery then more children will attend Ark Victoria Academy school, down the road. All the stuff in st.benedicts are lovely and friendly. My youngest who is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I hope you reconsider your decision to close the nursery.

Kind regards

Email Two

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Edsi Enquiries <edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi sorry to say don't you think school is over crowd with kid which they took kids from other school and that open again and this year school want close nursery doing that you are making difficult for parents to drop kid in 2 school this school all way start from nursery to year 7 this change affect lots of people I think nursery should say open that's how school was designed to serve local community [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Response ID	Response type	In favour	Comments
ANON-GZVM-P5NM-4	Staff Member	No	<p>As the majority of our intake for reception this coming September are from our Nursery, closing the nursery will ensure we have zero intake for the following september. What do the LA intend to do to ensure the school remains viable? If the nursery is closed and the intake removed, this will place further financial strain on the school and eventually lead to the closure of a fantastic school offering above and beyond for children with complex SEN and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. In the long term, the closure of the nursery is going to make the school unviable going forward - this seems unproductive.</p> <p>The school is only under so much financial pressure and short on numbers, due to the LA allowing the Ark Academy in Oldknow Road to extend from Secondary only to all through - we were assured this would not affect our numbers and that we would continue to be funding. The enforced closure of the nursery, which will result in zero catchment for our future intake seems to imply the LA which to enforce full closure on a wonderful school.</p>
ANON-GZVM-P5NP-7	Local Resident	Yes	Many other nurseries available within minutes of each other.
ANON-GZVM-P5N5-C	Staff Member	No	<p>I have had the pleasure of working at St Benedict's Primary school for ■■■ years and spent ■■■ years working in the Nursery. We offer the children a fabulous start to their school lives and give them many experiences that so many wouldn't otherwise have enjoyed. All of our children make fabulous progress whatever their starting point and that is due to the amazing relationship we share with all of the families and the care that we give to each and every child. It will be a very sad day for the staff and local community if St Benedict's Nursery is forced to close.</p>
ANON-GZVM-P5NZ-H	Local Resident	Yes	
ANON-GZVM-P5N3-A	Pupil	No	Nursery should remain open. It's a great local facility which has been here for years. I was once a student myself at this nursery. Nursery is very important to kick start a child's development.
ANON-GZVM-P5NQ-8	Local Resident	Yes	There is no need for a nursery at this age group or even setting up primary years years 3-6 due to the numerous amount of local schools within walking distance of this school that can cater for this.
ANON-GZVM-P5NE-V	Local Resident	No	<p>I think children range 3 to 11 years must remain.</p> <p>Ages 4 to 11 years will only mean years 3's having to travel further for education and parents having to juggle sending kids to a different school for a year.</p> <p>It is simply not viable when St Benedict's can provide this education already and are trying to abolish this with no good justification.</p>
ANON-GZVM-P5NY-G	Local Resident	No	

Appendix 5: Cabinet Member Report

Ward Councillors/MP Consulted

School Organisation Report

Alter the age range of St Benedict's Primary School from 3 – 11 years to 4 -11 years with effect from 31st August 2021.

Councillor Name	Ward	Date Consulted	Method of Consultation	Comments
Zaheer A Khan	Small Heath	22 nd February 2021: Pre-publication stage. 22 nd April 2021: Statutory/ representation stage.	E mail	Clr Zaheer Khan emailed in response to the notification of the pre-publication consultation on 23 rd February asking for clarification as to why the nursery was closing. An EDI Officer sent an email to Clr Khan with a copy of the pre-publication letter and advised that a full proposal would be shared at the representation stage. No comments received at the statutory representation stage.
Safia Akhtar	Small Heath	22 nd February 2021: Pre-publication stage. 22 nd April 2021: Statutory/ representation stage	E mail	No comments
Mohammed Idrees	Alum Rock	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Mariam Khan	Alum Rock	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Yvonne Mosquito	Bordesley & Highgate	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments

Chauhdry Rashid	Bordesley Green	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Diane Donaldson	Bromford and Hodge Hill	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Majid Mahmood	Bromford and Hodge Hill	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Marje Bridle	Glebe Farm and Tile Cross	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
John Cotton	Glebe Farm and Tile Cross	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Shafique Shah	Heartlands	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Ian Ward	Shard End	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Mohammed Aikhlq	Ward End	22 nd April 2021	E mail	No comments
Member of Parliament Name	Constituency	Date Consulted	Method of Consultation	Comments
Liam Byrne	Hodge Hill	22 nd February 2021: Pre-publication stage. 22 nd April 2021: Statutory/ representation stage.	E mail	No comments

