



Notification of consultation period Change in age range for St Mary Redcliffe CofE Primary School

What are we proposing?

The Governors of St Mary Redcliffe CofE Primary School (SMRP) and Trustees of Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) are considering whether the school should change its age range from 3 - 11 to 4 - 11 from September 2026. Before making a decision about whether or not to proceed with this change, Governors and Trustees are keen to hear views on this proposal. This document provides further information and outlines how you can respond to the consultation on this proposal.

Why are we proposing this change?

St Mary Redcliffe Primary currently offers nursery provision for children aged 3-4 years old on site through the 'St Mary Primary School Nursery'.

The number of families using our nursery provision has reduced significantly; we believe that this could be because the hours provided by the nursery do not meet the needs of the local community. This means that the costs of running the nursery are not currently covered by the income received and so the nursery provision requires disproportionate time and resources from the school to run.

This is why we are considering changing the age range of the school (to 4-11), which would remove the responsibility of nursery provision from the school's remit.

However, we do see the nursery as an important part of the school community. Therefore, in parallel to seeking views on closing the school run nursery provision, we will also be exploring whether a high quality, local, independent provider would be able to organise and deliver the nursery provision instead of the school. This would be operated from the same location on the school site and would complement the existing education provision we offer in Reception to Year 6. An external provider may also be able to offer an increased and more flexible provision that can better meet the needs of our community.

This consultation is seeking the views from the community on:

- The change in the age range of provision provided by St Mary Redcliffe CofE Primary School from 3-11 to 4-11 years of age. This would mean the school run nursery provision would close (from September 2026, dependent on Department for Education approval).
- Exploring whether an external nursery provider could be found to run this provision instead.

Timeline for consultation and any possible change

The consultation process will run from Monday 11th May 2026 to 5pm on Friday 29th May 2026. The change in age range, if it were to be agreed by governors and trustees, and subject to the approval of the Department for Education, would take place from 1st September 2026.

How can I find out more information?

A copy of the information related to this consultation can also be found on the SMRP website: www.smrp.org.uk/parent-information/consultations.

How do I make my views known?

There are a number of ways in which you can make your views known:

- send an email with your thoughts to enquiries@lsp.org.uk. Please use the following as the email subject: 'SMRP change of age range consultation'
- deliver handwritten comments to the school office marked 'SMRP change of age range consultation'
- email enquiries@lsp.org.uk to arrange a meeting with the Director of Primary Education, Neil Lankester.

Please ensure your responses have been sent by 5pm on Friday 29th May so your views can be taken into consideration.

If you require the information translated into another language, or provided in a different format, then please email enquiries@lsp.org.uk stating which language and/or format you require.

The governors and trustees are mindful of their duties under the Equality Act and will be carrying out their own assessment of the impact on any protected characteristic groups of a decision to move forward with this proposal (if any), but if there is anything related to this which you would like to draw to the governors and trustees' attention, please get in touch.

How would the consultation impact on any final decision?

Following the consultation period, all submitted views will be considered and if the governors and trustees decide to proceed with changing the age range at SMRP, a 'significant change' application would be made to the Department for Education who would make the final decision.

Alongside this consultation we will begin to engage with other high quality, local, independent providers to seek initial interest in taking over the nursery provision.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the age range change being proposed?

Primary schools, across England, are under extreme financial pressures due to increased salary costs, declining pupil numbers and stretched funding from the government. The costs incurred by SMRP to run the current nursery provision are not covered by the funding or income the school receives for the provision. It also requires significant resources from the school (staff time and expertise etc.) which is affecting SMRP's wider educational provision.

We also believe that the current hours provided by the nursery do not meet the needs of many families in the local community.

SMRP cannot sustain the current nursery provision, which is why the change in age range provision for the school is being considered. However, we know that the nursery is an important part of the school community and so we will investigate whether an external nursery provider would be interested in running the provision instead.

What would change?

St Mary Redcliffe CofE Primary School would provide education provision for children aged 4-11 years old (Reception - Year 6). The school would no longer provide education provision for children aged 3-4 years old (nursery) from 1st September 2026.

Nursery provision would continue on the SMRP school site, if an external provider can be identified. We would need to be confident that they would deliver excellent early years provision for our families and the local community within an increased and more flexible offer.

What does it mean for my child?

The majority of children currently in our nursery will be moving into our reception class from September 2026.

For those families who have children in the nursery beyond September 2026, if a new provider is identified, you would have priority to register for a place with them. We would also hope to facilitate an opportunity for you to meet the new provider and their staff before September 2026.

If a new provider cannot be found, then families with children in the nursery beyond September 2026 would need to look for alternative nursery provision.

How would any change for the nursery provision impact on admissions to St Mary Redcliffe Primary School?

The admission process and criteria for joining St Mary Redcliffe CofE Primary School aged 4 (Reception) would remain the same.

How would admissions to the nursery provision change?

As the nursery provision would no longer be run by the school admissions processes would be dependent on the new provider.

However, we would expect any new provider to prioritise children currently using the nursery provision at SMRP, children with siblings at SMRP and those who live locally. This will ensure the nursery continues to serve the local community.

Would the name of the nursery change?

Yes. The nursery would no longer be St Mary Redcliffe Primary School Nursery, as it would not be run by the school. The new provider would name the nursery provision.

Who makes the final decision on the change?

Following this consultation period, if the governors and trustees decide to proceed with applying to change the age range of St Mary Redcliffe Primary School, they would then make a 'significant change' application to the Department for Education who make the final decision.

When would the change take place?

Subject to this approval we would look to close SMRP school run nursery provision from the end of the summer term 2026.