



**Samuel Barlow**  
Primary Academy



Part of  
**Diverse  
Academies**

## Consultation

### Extending our nursery provision by lowering the age range to two year olds

We are excited to propose an extension of our nursery provision by lowering the age range of our academy from three to two year olds, from September 2025.

This proposal aims to meet the growing demand for high-quality childcare in our community while supporting children to make the best start in life. We expect the extended provision to offer a maximum of 20 places to two year olds.

We have carried out research and consultation with the local authority to confirm the feasibility of this proposed change, which aligns with our vision to inspire, raise aspirations and create brighter tomorrows for all our learners.

### Proposed development

To support the introduction of our provision for two year olds, we propose to repurpose the former kitchen and dining area of our building. This area will be transformed into a vibrant and stimulating environment tailored specifically to meet the needs of nursery-aged children.

This exciting development will enable us to extend our educational offer, providing more families in our community with access to high-quality, school-based early education from a younger age.

We want to reassure everyone that the planned works will not affect the rest of the academy, and during the refurbishment phase, every effort will be made to ensure minimal disruption to day-to-day school life.

### Why this proposal matters

We believe that introducing a school-based nursery for two year olds will have a transformative impact.

- **Meeting community needs** – this initiative directly addresses the growing demand for childcare in our community, spurred by the government's provision of free childcare hours for two year olds. By offering accessible, high-quality care, we will empower local families, enhance community wellbeing and create opportunities for children to thrive from an early age.

- **Fostering a love for learning** – our nursery will provide a warm, nurturing environment where every child feels safe, valued and inspired. Through high-quality early education, we aim to ignite natural curiosity and foster developmental progress at each child's own pace. From age two, children will benefit from personalised care and engaging activities that build critical skills, confidence and resilience – establishing a solid foundation for future learning.
- **Ensuring smooth transitions** – when children join a school-based nursery, it creates a seamless pathway to formal education. By becoming familiar with the school environment, routines and staff, children gain a sense of security and confidence that eases their transition to primary school. This approach supports both their social and emotional development, ensuring children are prepared to flourish as they continue their educational journey.

## **Our approach to early education**

At Samuel Barlow Primary Academy, we provide a nurturing environment where children are welcomed into our family. Our nursery is a place where they can play, learn and grow through imaginative role play, shared stories and exploration.

With the introduction of provision for two year olds, we will extend the same high-quality care and facilities to our youngest learners. Our spaces and activities will be thoughtfully tailored to meet their unique needs, ensuring they feel safe, valued and engaged as they begin their educational journey.

Guided by our passionate early years team – which is led by a qualified teacher – children are encouraged to explore both indoors and outdoors, sparking their curiosity and creativity. We offer a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities, helping children develop critical thinking, independence and a love for learning.

Every day at our nursery is an opportunity for growth, where each child flourishes at their own pace, supported by our warm and caring school community.

We are committed to:

- **delivering a quality educational experience** – offering care and education that adheres to the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework;
- **personalised learning** – tailoring the curriculum to meet individual developmental needs and interests;
- **partnership with parents** – encouraging parent participation to enhance children's learning experiences; and
- **inclusion** – supporting children with special or additional needs through collaboration with parents and external agencies.

## Consultation process

To ensure the development aligns with community needs, we are seeking feedback from:

- parents of children currently attending the academy;
- parents in the local area; and
- other primary schools in the area.

We welcome your input on this proposal and encourage you to share your thoughts, questions or suggestions. Your feedback will play a crucial role in shaping the implementation of this initiative.

### Have your say

The consultation period will run from Thursday 12 December 2024 to Thursday 9 January 2025.

We invite you to participate in the consultation through either:

- completing our [online survey](#);
- sending us feedback via email at [nurseryconsultation@samuelbarlowprimary-ac.org.uk](mailto:nurseryconsultation@samuelbarlowprimary-ac.org.uk);
- in writing to 'Nursery consultation, Samuel Barlow Primary Academy, Church Road, Clipstone, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9DF'; or
- by requesting a meeting to discuss your views in person – please contact us at [office@samuelbarlowprimary-ac.org.uk](mailto:office@samuelbarlowprimary-ac.org.uk) or call 01623 479033 to arrange this.

Please note that anonymous comments and representations will not be accepted. Printed copies of this document are available on request.

**We are excited about the potential of this development to enhance early education in our community and look forward to working together to make it a success. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.**