

Proposal for School-Based Nursery at Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Introduction

This consultation is being undertaken to advise you of proposals concerning Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Norwood Crescent, Southport, PR9 7DU and to invite you to tell us what you think of the proposals.

The proposal is:

To change the age range at Holy Family Catholic Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1st September 2026.

The proposed nursery could accommodate up to 26 (FTE) children.

The published admission number (PAN) for the main school will not be affected by these proposals.

We propose, at this stage, that the nursery provision will be term-time and will be open from 09:00 until 15:00. This addition to the school will offer many benefits including the early support of children and families.

Reasons for the Proposal

Following the introduction of expanded Early Years funding and in line with the Government's commitment to expanding School-Based Nurseries across England, and to build more capacity into the early education sector where there is greatest need, Holy Family Catholic Primary School is proposing to apply as part of phase 2 for the School-Based Nursery grant in order to meet Early Years need and demand within the local area. There is little School-Based Nursery provision in Norwood ward, however there are some PVIs and the school intends to work with the local PVIs.

In September 2024 as part of the Ofsted inspection, the school was rated as 'good'. This practice would be extended into the proposed School Nursery which would be teacher-led. The nursery provision would operate in conjunction with the existing breakfast club/after school club on site.

By proposing to establish a School-Based Nursery, we intend to meet the needs of working parents who may require a school setting as an option rather than having to travel further afield, or parents of existing pupils at the school who may prefer to place younger siblings in the Early Years provision on the same site.

School leaders, the Local Authority and Archdiocese are aware of the need for additional Early Years places in the local area. This is evidenced in the LA Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. It is anticipated that there will be increased demand for these places as a result of the Government expansion of the offer of the Free Entitlement to Early Years Education. The anticipated impact on the school is positive in that the expansion of the age range will support the maintenance of the PAN, parental demand for early years provision at a school of their choice and support an increased number of children to achieve school readiness by the end of the EYFS.

How will the setting provide EY provision to disadvantaged children?

The school currently has 20.7% of pupils on pupil premium, a high % of EAL (higher than national average), 17% SEND and 3% EHCPs. This provision to disadvantaged children will extend to any disadvantaged children in the proposed Early Years setting.

Description of building changes

There would be no expansion to the accommodation but existing space would be modified as the infrastructure is already in place. There would be some reconfiguration to the Reception room and the Nursery and Reception would be joined as a combined space. Additional toilets would be provided.

What is the proposed timetable?

21st November 2025 –: Consultation with parents and the local community to take into account the views expressed regarding the proposals to change the age range.

5th December 2025 – Consultation period closes

8th December 2025 – Consideration of consultation responses by School Leaders, Local Authority and Archdiocese.

9th December 2025 – School-Based Nursery application submitted to DfE

Any feedback/comments regarding the opening of Holy Family Catholic Primary School Nursery can be sent to: admin.holyfamilyprimary@schools.sefton.gov.uk or School.Organisation@sefton.gov.uk

We would appreciate if you could spend a few moments completing this short survey using the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_nz8fHJPdePTavABPw2mcycpUaJROG8w2XCztGHldZ8cy5g/viewform?usp=publish-editor