

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE NURSERY AT
St Mary's C of E Primary School
Halton**

Reason for Consultation:

St Mary's C of E Nursery currently offers 15 hours' free early education to three and four year olds (early years free entitlement).

The nursery class currently has a Pupil Admission Number of 36 places and offers parents 15 hours' provision per week, and is open only during school term-times.

This consultation is about a proposal to close the school's nursery class with effect from September 2022.

The governing body at St Mary's C of E Primary School have looked that the sustainability of the Nursery. The number of children on roll in the nursery class has been falling in recent years and this has caused significant pressure on the school's overall budget.

In autumn term 2021 of the 36 places available there were 11 children on roll and some of these were part time only. **Numbers next September are significantly lower.**

As with all maintained schools St Mary's C of E Primary School receives a budget for its nursery class based upon the number of children who attended in the previous financial year. This is adjusted each term according to the number of children who actually take up places. Early years funding cannot pay for empty places.

To meet statutory ratios school nursery classes must employ one teacher and suitably qualified early years practitioner for every 13 children. This would mean that next year we would need to have 2 members of staff for less than 7 children.

The Governing Body therefore wish to consult on the future of this provision and possible closure.

What happens next?

1. The formal consultation starts on Monday 21 February 2022, and is for a period of five weeks during which the views of any interested parties are sought. These views will be considered before any further stages in the process are undertaken.

The proposal can be viewed on the school website and information will be sent out to all parents. Details of where comments can be sent will also be published.

The consultation ends on 25 March 2022.

2. The Governing Body will meet to consider all responses on 30th March. All the objections and comments gathered during the representation period will be provided to the Governing Body to enable them to make an informed decision.
3. School will publish its decision on April 5th 2022
4. **NURSEY WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL JULY 22nd 2022**

If you wish to respond to this consultation, please do so by writing to The Chair of Governors via the school office.