

# **Heather Ridge Infant School**

## **Proposal to lower the age range to provide nursery provision**

### **Questions and answers**

#### **How has the need for new nursery provision been identified?**

The Early Years team has completed a sufficiency report on current demand for places for children aged 2, 3 & 4 within a 2-mile radius, which has concluded that there are not enough places for 2-year-olds (working parent entitlement/WPE & FEET), but that the area is currently sufficient for 3- & 4-year-old places. Information can also be found in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) report 2024.

#### **How will the proposed new nursery provision impact other local providers?**

It is difficult to predict what impact, if any, the proposed new nursery provision would have on other local providers. Based on the current data, it would be anticipated that all providers would work alongside one another to provide different offers to suit all families in the area.

#### **What are the risks for the school if the proposal was to go ahead and there was not the necessary demand?**

It is the school's responsibility to ensure that they have modelled any financial implications of different scenarios and have appropriate plans in place.

#### **What market research has been conducted to determine the places are needed at the school?**

The school has conducted a survey to ascertain what demand there may be for the proposed nursery provision.

#### **Where on the school's site will the nursery be based?**

The school has a standalone building currently used by their wraparound care. The current wraparound provision will not be affected.

#### **What is the timeframe for the opening of the nursery provision?**

Should the proposal be agreed, the nursery will open in September 2025 or January 2026.

#### **What sort of before/after school (wraparound) care might be provided for the nursery?**

This is currently being considered by the school and is subject to demand. Should the proposal be agreed, the school will confirm how the new nursery provision will operate.

#### **How will the nursery make Heather Ridge Infant School more sustainable?**

Opening nursery provision enables schools to establish early relationships with families, utilise existing facilities and resources more effectively, and can lead to improved educational outcomes.

**How is the proposed nursery provision different to what is already being offered in the local area?**

The school will be offering a different model to other local providers, giving parents a different option and it will seek to fill the current delivery gap as the school will be able to offer parents the full 30 hours (working parent entitlement/WPE) and starting at the younger age of two. There will also be the possibility of additional wraparound care, which is being considered as part of the school's nursery model.

**Will the school be recruiting another teacher?**

The school is seeking to have a teacher-led nursery provision. If the proposal goes ahead, staffing will be considered, and appropriate recruitment will be carried out if needed.