



# St Joseph's Catholic Infant School

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## Proposed extension to the age range of St Joseph's Catholic Infant School

St Joseph's Catholic Infant School and the Directors of the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust wish to consult on increasing the age-range of the school; extending it to incorporate the provision previously managed as a governor led Pre-School.

We are now opening consultation with all interested parties to seek their views on changing the school's age range from 4 - 7 years to 2 - 7 years. Formal consultation will begin on **Monday January 24<sup>th</sup> 2022** and end on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**.

### Background

St Joseph's Catholic Infant School has hosted Pre-School provision since September 2007 in a provision established with the support of Buckinghamshire Council and the national Sure Start scheme. The buildings used are purpose built for Pre-School education and incorporating the Pre-School into the main school roll will not change this arrangement.

### Proposal

We believe that by increasing the age-range of the school to include all children on the schoolsite, including those currently accommodated in the governor led Pre-School provision, we will:

- Improve educational standards: All of the administrative functions will be able to run through the main school system freeing up more time for staff to work directly with the children and liaison with Reception staff will be enhanced. As a result, children will benefit from more face to face time with staff and transition arrangements into Reception will be improved. This is a change in practice that was highlighted as beneficial by the Buckinghamshire Early Years Advisor.
- Maintain current staffing arrangements: There will be no changes to staffing and so no disruption to the children we serve as a consequence of this change.
- Maintain current Admissions Procedures: We are making no changes to the number of children we propose to admit and no change to the admissions criteria for either the Pre-School or the children we welcome into Reception. All children must apply for a place in Reception irrespective of whether they already have a place in Pre-School and this will continue to apply.
- Offer no detriment to other educational institutions within the area: As St Joseph's Pre-School provision is already operational, there will be no greater or lesser impact on other Nurseries, Pre-Schools or Primary schools in the local area when the change to the school roll is made.

The costs involved in making this change to the school roll will be minimal and met through the Academy Conversion Support Grant, already secured by the school. If the consultation responses are favourable, the change to school roll will come into effect on **1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

### **Distribution of consultation document**

The main purpose of this letter is to engage all stakeholders in the consultation process and to hear their views. The consultation letter has been published on the websites of St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Joseph's Catholic High School, Shaggy Calf Lane, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 5HW and St Joseph's Catholic Infant School, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7JF.

However, in order to ensure that this consultation document should be read as widely as possible, it is also being distributed as follows:

- The Catholic Diocese of Northampton
- The Local Academy Committee of St Joseph's Catholic Infant School
- Staff at St Joseph's Catholic Infant School and Pre-School
- Parents of pupils at St Joseph's Catholic Infant School and Pre-School
- Buckinghamshire Council (*internal colleagues including Andrew Tusting - commissioning manager, senior management, the Cabinet Member for Education and local councillors*)
- The local MP
- Representatives of the teaching unions

### **Responding to the consultation**

To respond to this consultation, please complete the short survey here:

[St Joseph's Catholic Infant School Change Survey](#)

Responses will be shared with the Local Academy Committee, Directors of the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust and the Regional School's Commissioner and will be used to inform the decision on the proposed change to the age range.

Yours faithfully,

*S Adamo-Ibbotson*

Sonia Adamo-Ibbotson  
Chair of the Local Academy Committee