

Discovery Multi Academy Trust
Beechwood Primary Academy,
Rockfield Avenue, Southway, Plymouth
PL6 6DX

T: 01752 706361
E: info@discoverymat.co.uk

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Alison Nettleship
Chair of the Board: Mrs Julia Guy



Wednesday 11th May 2022

Dear Community Member

Expansion of nursery provision and change of age range consultation at Beechwood Primary Academy and Weston Mill Community Primary Academy

As a member of the school trust and/or another local community provision, you have an interest in the future of Beechwood Primary Academy and Weston Mill Community Primary Academy. Therefore, we are writing to consult you on a proposed change to the number of children we can accommodate at our nursery provisions and a change to the schools' age range which we are anticipating to be finalised no earlier than 1st September 2022.

The Multi Academy Trust needs to consult on the proposed changes in line with the January 2022 Department for Education 'Making significant changes or closure by agreement' guidance, which is available [here](#).

We wish to receive the views and comments of all perceived stakeholders involved with the schools. The consultation period runs for four weeks from Friday 13th May 2022 to Thursday 16th June 2022 (allowing for the trust a one week half term break in June) and all comments received during this time will be considered.

The proposal

We are proposing to extend the nursery 3 year old provision at both schools to 18 places of 30 hours per week (currently supporting 18 places for 15 hours per week) or 36 places for 15 hours (or any combination of both).

We are also proposing to lower the age range at the schools from 3-11 years to 2-11 years so that we can offer a 2 year old provision of 12 places at each of the two schools.

If these provisions are successful, we may consider holiday provision at Weston Mill Community Primary Academy.

Why is the school proposing this change?

Extending our schools nursery provision will effectively double our capacity to support families. The age range change is required so we can fully support families with a nursery provision from age 2 onwards.

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The benefits

- The local community would have access to an upgraded nursery provision including 2 and 3 year old funding with increased hours from 15 to 30 hours available increasing the choice for parents/carers in the local area
- Nursery children would become an integral part of the school allowing them to access more educational opportunities
- Transition from Nursery to Reception, where children gain a place in Reception at the school, would allow for a smooth and effective transition allowing children to settle quickly
- An increased Early Years provision for 30 hours allows for children to prepare themselves in advance of a longer day in Reception
- Allows opportunities for parents/carers to go to work should they wish to do so

What happens next?

The consultation will be for a period of four weeks, commencing Friday 13th May 2022 to Thursday 16th June 2022 (allowing for the trust a one week half term break in June). At the end of the consultation period, all comments will be considered by the schools and trust and a decision will be made as whether to proceed with the next stage of the process as outlined in the Department for Education's guidance.

How can I make my views known?

Your views are important to us and we value your opinions. You can send your comments to the following:

Email: info@discoverymat.co.uk

Letter: Mrs H Hawkes, Discovery MAT, Beechwood Primary Academy, Rockfield Avenue, Plymouth PL6 6DX

If you require clarification on any of the points raised, please contact us on 01752 706361 or by email to the address above.

Your faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Nettleship".

Alison Nettleship
Chief Executive Officer
Discovery Multi Academy Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Guy".

Julia Guy
Chair of Trustees
Discovery Multi Academy Trust