

All Council Members

Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Department of Children's Services

Early Years Services
Margaret McMillan Tower
Princes Way
Bradford
BD1 1NN

Email: sufficiency@bradford.gov.uk

On Behalf of Strong Close Nursery School

Date: 4 May 2018

Dear Colleagues

Consultation on lowering the age range of children at Strong Close Nursery School

We are consulting on lowering the age range of children who attend our school from 3-5 years old to 2-5 years old. This is because Pre-school Learning Alliance who own Strong Close Day Nursery has closed the day nursery. As a school we want to be able to offer parents 2 year old provision, so are proposing to lower the age range we can offer places from September 2018.

Not every child is eligible for a funded 'Early Education for Two Year Olds'. The eligibility criteria have been set by the government, not the school. Places at our proposed two year old nursery would be available to the following children:

Whose parents are in receipt of an income-related benefit, which are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit*
- Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they're looked after by a Local Authority
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

This development will support the children and families within the local area with a focus on disadvantaged two year olds who are less likely to have experienced play and learning opportunities outside the home, and might fail to achieve their full potential. We can anticipate a significant gap between their outcomes and those of their less disadvantaged peer groups.

Early Education for two year olds seeks to redress some of that imbalance. Research has shown that access to quality early education improves children's outcomes and this provision forms the significant part of early education for two year olds.

There is strong evidence that early education makes a positive difference to young children. The 'Effective Provision of Pre-school Education' study found that high quality early education has particularly strong impacts on the cognitive and social development of disadvantaged children, and that these benefits last throughout primary school.

We would also look at providing other flexible offers of care to children who may not be eligible for a funded place, in line with our business plan.

This letter is to gain your views and comments about this proposal as part of the overall consultation. We will also be informing the local community and other stakeholders in the area, and seeking their views.

The consultation process will begin on Friday 4th May and continues until Friday 25th May after which a full analysis and report with recommendations will be made to the Council's Executive Committee for a decision to be made.

Any comments or suggestions can be made on the attached form which can be sent or handed in to the school office. Or if you prefer you can answer the on-line consultation on the [Bradford Council website](#).

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hogan

Acting Executive Headteacher

Consultation on lowering the age range of children at Strong Close Nursery School

We are consulting on lowering the age range of children who attend our school from 3-5 years old to 2-5 years old. This is because Strong Close Day Nursery who is owned by Pre-school Learning Alliance have closed their day nursery that currently offers places for 2 year olds.

As a school we want to be able to offer provision from 2 year old, so are asking your opinion on lowering the school age range

The consultation process will begin on Friday 4 May and continue until Friday 25th May after which a full analysis and report with recommendations will be made to the Director of Children's Services, who will decide if Statutory Notices will be published as a part of formal consultation.

1. Please indicate which applies to you:

- Parent of a child in our school
- Parent of a child under three years old
- Governor at Strong Close Nursery School
- Staff member of Strong Close Nursery School
- Local resident
- Councillor or MP
- Day Nursery/ Pre-school provider/childminder
- Local school
- Other interest group (please describe)

2. Do you agree that the school lower their age range in order to accommodate 2 year old children?

- Yes
- No
- Neither agree or disagree
- Other

3. Please state the reason for your answer

4. Any Other Comments on the proposal?

Your name

Signed Date.....

Thank you of taking the time to comment. Please return by **25th May** 2018 at the latest.
Please return to:

Strong Close Nursery School, Airedale Road, Keighley BD21 4LW