

Summary of responses to consultation on changes to Low Ash Primary School Nursery Provision

Consultation was open between 7 September 2018 and 19 October 2018.

A total of 68 responses were received; mainly from parents of children currently attending the school or nursery, many of whom indicated they also have younger children who are not yet attending school/ nursery. The majority of the respondents are local residents in the BD18 area of the District.

Breakdown of responses:

Group	Closure	Reduce: 26/26	Change: am/pm	Change: 2/3 days	No change	Other	Total
Parent of child attending Low Ash Nursery	2	7	0	0	8	2	19
Parent of child attending Low Ash School (incl. school Governor)	3	15	5	0	8	0	31
Staff member	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Low Ash School Governor	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other School Governor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Councillor	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Member of Local Community (all Included in other categories)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parent of younger child	0	2	0	0	4	0	5
Other/Unknown	2	1	0	0	2	0	5
Total	12	27	5	0	22	2*	68

*Did not state a preference but made comments.

Responses agreeing with the proposal to close the nursery:

- The free entitlement is now available at private nurseries which offer wrap-around care for working parents.
- There is uncertainty around school funding which puts a strain on main school budget to 'top up' any shortfall in nursery funding. Unfilled places at other nearby nurseries/schools could be filled instead.
- Parents require longer hours for nursery children.
- Lower numbers of parents taking nursery places as children are already settled at private nursery.
- One of the parents of a child in the school in agreement with the proposal to close the nursery, states that many families choose private nursery instead of school nursery and "as the school is expanding, it makes sense, both financially and space wise, to consider closing the nursery."
- Like any other business, if it costs the school to keep the nursery open than I believe it should close and the money spent elsewhere in the school.

Responses agreeing with the proposal to change the nursery by reducing to 26 children at one time:

- As indicated in the consultation document, proposal 2 would cause the least disruption to both parents and children.
- Proposal 2 will only require 22 out of the proposed 26 places for the schools costs to break even, therefore the existing waiting list already contain more than that (24 equivalent) and therefore funding is already more than covered by the existing waiting list for 2019/20. Closure of nursery would have a detrimental effect on local families and children.

- The nursery at Low Ash is viewed as a lovely environment for young children to be introduced to school life.
- My oldest daughter attended this nursery and came on leaps and bounds when she was there, I was so happy with the help and involvement of the teachers. I was expecting my son to be going here, would be a shame if it closed.
- Closure of the nursery will have a detrimental effect on local families and children.
- Understanding that government funding cuts mean changes need to be made and this is the most practical option available.

Responses agreeing with the proposal to change the nursery by changing the opening hours of the nursery to mornings or afternoons only:

- Whilst 5 respondents chose this proposal, only one commented: I would be happy with most measures taken that would keep the nursery open. We chose Low Ash School based on the nursery facility so to lose it would be a massive blow to the community.

There were no responses agreeing with the proposal to change the nursery by offering 2/3 days per week

Responses disagreeing with the proposals and feel the nursery should remain as it is:

- To find out Low Ash Nursery could be closing is disappointing and distressing...This is the school I wanted my daughter to learn, develop and make friends as I know it is a great setting for her.
- Having a nursery attached to school helps children to settle into the school environment ready for reception class and a structured school day routine.
- The school could consider options for offering flexible provision five days a week in conjunction with before and after-school wrap around care either on-site or with an off-site provider in order to meet working parents' needs.
- Concerns raised re some parents being confused about eligibility of free nursery places at the school and therefore taking young children elsewhere.

There were two responses with no preferred option but the comments made suggest they would prefer the nursery to remain open:

- My granddaughter goes here so will my grandson if this nursery does not close
- I have my grandson and will have another two of my grandsons attending this nursery in 2020 we don't want this to close as all my grandkids attend this school and cannot put our grandkids in different schools please I hear that this nursery remains open and how it was run before as my daughter law works and gets 30 hours and she used this at this school already and wants to still use this

As suggested by consultees, it is our recommendation that the school is requested to explore options for a more flexible offer such as wraparound care.

See all responses below in Appendix D