



# PROPOSALS FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE NURSERY AT SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Contact details

Springfield Primary School, Cavendish Street, Broomhall, Sheffield, S3 7RZ.

(Contact: Chair of Governors, c/o Springfield Primary School, Cavendish Street, Broomhall, Sheffield, S3 7RZ).

The proposer is the Governing Body of Springfield Primary School and Sheffield City Council Local Authority.

Springfield Primary School is a Local Authority maintained school with attached nursery, for children aged 3-11 years. The proposal is to permanently close the nursery attached to the school.

## Implementation

It is proposed to permanently close the nursery by 25th July 2025.

## Reason for Closure

There has been a reduction in the number of children taking up a place at the early year's nursery (3-4-year-old) provision at Springfield over the last 5 years, despite the best efforts of the school and its governors to improve this. The table below shows the numbers of children in the nursery from 2018/19 – 2022/23:

Academic Year	Highest number on roll in Autumn (52 places available)	Highest number on roll in Spring (52 places available)	Highest number on roll in Summer (52 places available)
2018 – 2019	18	36	39
2019 – 2020	29	33	32
2020 – 2021	16	20	27
2022 – 2022	17	20	31
2022 – 2023	14	16	15

When the nursery was open, the school budget was running at a deficit due to the decreased uptake at the nursery. Therefore, if it reopened based on these numbers, it would continue to do so. This places pressure on the whole school budget. The impact on the school budget over the last 4 years in which it was open was a deficit of £50,112. The minimum number of children needed to make the nursery financially viable would be 34.

The school has had no choice but to subsidise nursery provision with Government funding (AWPU) allocated to other children across school from Reception to Year 6, which is having an impact on the quality of the provision that the school is able to offer to their primary pupils. Closing the nursery will allow the school to focus on meeting the complex needs of their Reception to Year 6 pupils with increasing SEND/EAL needs, by redirecting the financial resource back to where it should be used.

Springfield's 3 Year budget plan predicts a ~£582,338 total deficit, which along with declining nursery admission numbers, led to school governors reaching a decision to work towards permanent closure of the nursery.



## **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

The Springfield Primary School Nursery provided 52 places per year for children aged 3-5 years. Due to the school nursery currently being temporarily closed, it has 0 pupils (31st August 2024).

## **Displaced Pupils**

This proposal will not cause displacement of any pupils. The Nursery has been closed temporarily since 1st September 2023 with no pupils in attendance.

## **Impact on the Community**

Currently there are 39 nursery and PVI settings in the area delivering early years provision. There are surplus places across the area for 3 and 4-year-olds with a 93% take-up rate.

The number of good private provisions in the area who can offer greater flexibility in terms of age-range, opening hours and outside of term-time provision than the school nursery means that families would still have access to an Early Years place within their community for their children despite the closure of this nursery.

Through the temporary closure of the nursery, the building space is currently being used as a community hub to deliver various children and family health and social support sessions within the community. This provides a great community asset to use for community and family support in an area of high need and deprivation. Sessions being delivered include:

- Family and adult community education (family learning).
- Parent and toddler groups.
- Start Well programmes.
- Family Intervention Service and Family Hub programmes.
- Sheffield Children's NHS Services – child health workshops for continence, school nursing, and public health nurses.
- Afterschool club provision.

If the nursery was to close permanently following consultation, this space would continue to be used for the benefit of the children and community.

## **Travel**

The locations of other nursery and PVI settings in the area are between 0.4 and 7 miles from Springfield Primary School. It is not anticipated that this proposal would result in an increased number of car journeys, due to other settings being within the same area of the city, and the nursery has been temporarily since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

## **Consultation Responses: support; objections and comments**

Springfield Primary School, its Governors, and Sheffield City Council will be holding a consultation on this proposal for a 6-week period from Friday 11th October 2024 to Friday 22nd November 2024.

The consultation will be undertaken using various methods to allow as many people from the community to respond with their views as possible. A "Have Your Say" Survey will be launched both online and paper based for families, people and partners in the community to respond. This Survey will be provided in many different languages to support the community's response. There will also be consultation sessions held in person and online throughout the consultation period to support people with completing the Survey, and/or to have more in-depth feedback discussions where required. In person consultation sessions will be held within the community at local venues such as Springfield Primary School and Sharrow Family Hub.



Although the focus is to gain the views of the community that this proposal will directly affect, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to:

Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families  
c/o Rebecca Fletcher  
Education and Childcare Commissioning Team  
Level 1, Howden House  
1 Union Street  
Sheffield  
S1 2SH

The closing date for responses is Friday 22nd November 2024.