



St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

Telephone and Fax: 01235 831298

Headteacher: Hayley Leyshon

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<http://www.stmichaelssteventon.co.uk>

Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage



CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR ST MICHAEL'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF THE SCHOOL.

This consultation asks for your views about extending the age range of St Michael's C of E Primary School, from 3-11 to 2-11 for 1 September 2025.

By extending the age range of the school, the opportunities for the children within the village to access early education are maximised and there is operational and financial resilience within the School to implement and sustain this change. As the Nursery Class is based in the former Steventon pre-school building, the space is already equipped to accommodate children aged 2½ and as such no remedial alterations to the fabric of the building will be required.

The Early Years curriculum and goals can be looked at from age 2½ to age 5, giving children a smooth start to their education from starting Nursery into KS1, and then KS2.

We know that there are a shortage of places of children before they reach 3 years of age and that with the Government introduction of more funded places in Early Years settings that this has increased the demand. A survey of parents within our school community has suggested that there is already local demand for this age range change.

The leadership and governance arrangements already in place for our Nursery Class will remain and the headteacher of the school will be held to account for the work of all areas of the School by the local academy board (LAB) and Trust CEO.

We want to know what questions or concerns you might have and whether you would support this proposal to merge, or not.

Please send any comments to enquiries@abingdonlearningtrust.org or office@stmichaelsprimary.school titled 'Age Range Consultation', or via letter in an envelope marked 'Age Range Consultation' to the School. Your consultation responses should be received by Friday 16th May.

This letter is available on the websites of St Michael's School and Abingdon Learning Trust. There are some FAQs that follow, which we hope will be helpful.

At the end of the consultation period, all responses will be collated and discussed by both the Local Academy Committee and the Abingdon Learning Trust trustees.

At that point the decision whether to go ahead with the change of age range, or not, will be taken.

With best wishes,

Jonathan Hopkins
Chair, Abingdon Learning Trust



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Frequently Asked Questions

How is Abingdon Learning Trust run?

There is an overall Trust Board where strategic decisions are made, and this board has oversight and accountability for all of the schools. This is where policies and procedures are agreed that relate to the schools in the Trust. However, the Board delegates the majority of decisions about how its schools are run to local academy boards of governors, and to the Headteachers. This is because we believe that local decision-making is best, and decisions should be made by the governors and leaders who are closest to where the impact of the decisions are felt, and who know their schools and community well.

How will the Nursery class be run?

The Nursery will be a separate building on the site, but fully included in the whole School. It will be run by the Early Years Lead and Qualified Teacher and staff, with the Headteacher having final responsibility and accountability for all education in the School. The Head is held to account for the work of all sections of the School by the local academy board (LAB) and Trust CEO.

Will there be more money available?

There will be no more funding available per child - as this is a level set by Oxfordshire County Council, following national guidelines. However, being part of a larger organisation gives opportunities for cost-savings. For example, purchasing of learning equipment as part of a larger purchasing organisation. Insurances and utilities are likely to be lower. Repairs and maintenance costs fall to the overall school, and staff development and training also.

In this way there should be some savings that can be used to further enhance the children's learning.

If my child goes to the Nursery, do they have to go on to St Michael's School?

No. Children in a Nursery setting, even when on a school site, have no entitlement to join the school. A parent who has a child attending St Michael's Nursery can apply for a school place at any school once their child reaches statutory school age.

Similarly, any parent can apply for a place at St Michael's School, whether they have been to the school Nursery or not. It is the Admissions policy for each school that determines whether a child is given a place, and not their Preschool setting.

Will this affect admissions to St Michael's Primary School?

As the Nursery takes children below statutory school age, there is no change required to School's admissions policy. The admissions policy is only for children of statutory school age – those who would join Reception or in years 1 – 6.

Children who have attended the school Nursery do not have any greater advantage if their parents apply for a place at St Michael's School.



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How
apply to St Michael's Nursery?

can I

You will need to contact the School Admin Team about any enquiries related to attending the Nursery. All Nursery places will be determined by the Admin Team, based on available places and the admissions criteria.

What happens with Ofsted inspection?

As the Nursery forms part of the School, Ofsted will inspect the School and the Nursery will be a part of the whole school inspection. There is no separate inspection.

Along with the Reception classes, the Nursery will form part of the Early Years section in the inspection report.

Who is responsible for safeguarding in the Nursery?

Safeguarding is a whole Trust responsibility and the Trust Board is accountable. The local academy board and headteacher are responsible for ensuring that the Trust's policy (which is the Oxfordshire schools' model policy adapted locally) is implemented in the School. The Trust's oversight is robust, and we have regular internal and external audits to ensure that this essential part of education is as strong as it can be.

What happens if I have a complaint about the nursery?

Each school in the Trust adopts the Trust's Complaints' Procedure, adapting it for its local circumstances. The way to complain is clearly set out, with the aim that before concerns become a complaint, there is open discussion with the setting to identify issues and find solutions. This will be the same for the Nursery.

If a formal complaint is needed, it is usually the Headteacher who receives that complaint, or the local academy board of governors. The Complaints Procedure is then followed.

May 2025