



Clifton All Saints Academy  
Church Street, Clifton  
Bedfordshire, SG17 5ES

01462 628444

school@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk

www.cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk

**Headteacher:** Rebecca Byrne

Public Consultation - February 2024

# Proposed Change of Age Range at Clifton All Saints Academy

The four-week consultation period commences on Monday 12th February 2024 and closes at noon on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to this proposal do so within this timeframe to allow their comments to be considered by the decisionmaker.

Responses can be made on-line via the following link: [Consultation Form](#)

Should you require a paper/ Word copy of this survey, please contact:  
[school@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk](mailto:school@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk)

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## Introduction

The Trust Board of the school in agreement with Central Bedfordshire Council, and The Woodlands Pre- School is proposing to change the age range of Clifton All Saints Academy from 4-11 to 2-11 in order to provide pre-school provision at Clifton All Saints Academy.

The proposal has met the criteria for a significant change to an Academy and therefore a public consultation must be held on the proposal.

This document helps to explain the background to the proposal and the next steps of this process:

- What is proposed
- Why it is being proposed
- Details of how the decision will be made
- How to submit a response

## School Details:

Address	Clifton All Saints Academy, Church Street, Clifton. Beds. SG17 5ES
Status	Academy
Ofsted Rating	Good (December 2022)
Current Age Range	4-11
Proposed Age Range	2-11

## Background information:

Clifton All Saints Academy and The Woodlands Pre-School share the same site and approximately two thirds of the Academy's Reception Class Cohort have previously attended The Woodlands Pre-School.

There is a close alignment in the vision and values of both settings as well as a desire to move forward as one education provider, rather than two separate entities.





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The Woodlands Pre-School is run by a dedicated and impressive small team of staff, and their responsibilities are vast: creating policies, staff recruitment, managing safeguarding, fundraising, dealing with finances, health and safety and so on. The Woodlands Pre-School relies on the support of a committee of volunteers who use their free time to support the preschool with these matters. The management team and committee agree that it would be beneficial to have the support of an experienced organisation and take advantage of being surrounded by professionals who understand learning within Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and beyond.

Clifton All Saints Academy currently does not offer any early education places for two, three- and four-year olds (other than rising 5s in the school's Reception class). The Trust Board of the school is proposing to make a significant change to Clifton All Saints Academy following the Making Significant Changes to an Open Academy Guidance (January 2022) issued by the Department for Education. This statutory proposal document contains all the relevant information to allow interested parties to decide whether to support the proposed change. Clifton All Saints Academy Trust Board must follow a statutory process for making prescribed alterations to schools. The publication of this statutory proposal and notices forms part of that process.

#### What is proposed?

The academy trustees, academy leadership team and The Woodlands management team and committee, feel that the time is right to merge the two settings. The Woodlands Pre-School (Charity) will close and transfer its assets to the school. The current staff will be transferred into the employment of Clifton All Saints Academy under the 'Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment' (TUPE) regulations, and they will be part of the school staff, managed by the Headteacher and school Senior Leadership Team. The Clifton All Saint Pre-School will operate in the current pre-school building and the site arrangements of Clifton All Saints Academy will stay as they currently are. The Woodlands Pre-School has a separate process for closing the pre-school and transferring its assets, which the pre-school will have to follow.

In order to do so, The Trust Board of Clifton All Saints Academy must lower the age range of Clifton All Saints Academy by two years; from 4-11 to 2-11. If approved, the intention is that the change would take effect from September 2024. While the age range of Clifton All Saints Academy will need to be lowered to two years of age for legal purposes this is not expected to significantly increase capacity for two-year-old provision within the pre-school.

If the proposed change of age range goes ahead, admissions to the pre-school will still be separate from admissions to the main school, and children who attend the pre-school will need to make a separate application for a place in the school's Reception class. Attending the pre-school will not give children any additional priority for a Reception place.





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## Why is it being proposed?

Changing the age range of the school and having a pre-school which is part of the school will have a number of benefits:

- School led pre-school provision at Clifton All Saints Academy
- Smooth and seamless transition for children in the pre-school into the Reception Class through early relationships formed with school staff and families
- Carefully mapped and sequenced curriculum plans that start from two and finish at eleven, raising educational standards and outcomes for all
- Access to qualified teachers from the age of two, all of whom are trained from EYFS to KS2 and understand the learning journey for every child
- Access to school facilities for the pre-school children through use of the classrooms, library, school hall and a hot meal offered at lunch time
- Improved learning environment within the pre-school building by access to the Condition Improvement Fund via the ESFA
- A commitment and strategic plan to improve the condition and fabric of the pre-school building and maintain this on a rolling basis

## How will the decision be made?

The four-week consultation period commences on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and closes at noon on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. A Public Notice has been issued on the school website, around the school and in the local area.

The following stakeholders will also be directly notified:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the school
- Staff and Trustees of the school
- Neighbouring schools
- Trustees of Woodlands pre-school
- The Board of Education of the Diocese of St Albans
- Local, District and County Councillors
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Children and Families
- Any other known local stakeholders





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At the conclusion of this consultation period the Trust Board of the Academy will consider all the responses to the consultation and (subject to any necessary consents being obtained) decide whether to proceed with the proposal by making a formal application for the change of age range. The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) will then decide (on behalf of the Secretary of State) whether proposals are in line with the needs of the local area.

How to submit a response?

Responses can be made on-line via the following link and must be received by noon on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

[Consultation Form](#)

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