



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consultation on Proposed Nursery Provision at Manuden Primary School

Proposal to lower the school's age range from 4–11 to 2–11

Manuden Primary School is consulting on a proposal to establish nursery provision within the school and to change the school's registered age range from 4–11 years to 2–11 years.

Please note: The proposal is subject to consultation, consideration by the Governing Board and the necessary approvals from Essex County Council.

What are we proposing?

The school is proposing to establish school-led nursery provision as part of our existing Early Years Foundation Stage.

Initially, the nursery would primarily provide places for children aged three and four. Changing the school's registered age range to 2–11 would also provide flexibility to admit eligible two-year-olds in the future where there is sufficient demand and where appropriate staffing, accommodation and statutory requirements can be met.

Nursery and Reception children would be accommodated within the school's existing EYFS provision, creating an integrated Nursery and Reception environment.

Our current proposal is for term-time provision, Monday to Friday, with:

- morning sessions from 8.45am–11.45am;
- full-day provision from 8.45am–3.00pm;
- access to the universal funded early education entitlement; and
- extended funded hours for eligible families.

The precise operating model would be finalised following consultation and confirmation of demand.



Why is the school considering this?

Manuden Primary School serves Manuden and the surrounding rural community.

We believe there may be an opportunity to provide accessible, high-quality early education closer to home for local families while creating greater continuity between Nursery and Reception.

An integrated EYFS model could enable children to become familiar with the school environment, routines and staff before beginning Reception.

It would also support:

- continuity across the Early Years Foundation Stage;
- early identification and support for additional needs;
- strong relationships with parents and carers;
- effective transition into Reception; and
- consistent safeguarding, teaching and learning approaches.

The school has already received expressions of interest from local families. However, an important purpose of this consultation is to establish more clearly the level of demand within Manuden and the surrounding area.

What impact could the proposal have?

The school recognises that establishing additional early-years places could affect existing childcare providers.

We therefore want to hear not only from current Manuden families, but also from prospective families, local residents, neighbouring schools, childminders, nurseries, pre-schools and other early-years providers.

We will consider all responses carefully before deciding whether to proceed.

What would the nursery look like?

Our current proposal is to use Manuden Primary School's existing Reception/EYFS accommodation rather than create a separate nursery building.

The school's Reception teacher would continue to lead the EYFS provision, supported by additional staffing appropriate to the ages and number of children attending.

Before any nursery provision opened, the school would ensure that accommodation, staffing, safeguarding, welfare requirements and adult-to-child ratios met the relevant Early Years Foundation Stage requirements.



When could the nursery open?

The school's current aspiration is to open the provision from the Spring Term 2027.

This remains subject to:

- the outcome of this consultation;
- consideration and approval by the Governing Board;
- review by Essex County Council;
- confirmation of financial sustainability;
- appropriate staffing and accommodation arrangements; and
- any other necessary approvals or consents.

No final decision to open the nursery has yet been made.

Have your say

We would like to hear from families, residents, schools, early-years providers and other interested members of the community.

Please complete our consultation survey, even if you do not currently have a child at Manuden Primary School.

Your views will help us understand:

- whether there is sufficient local demand;
- what type of nursery provision families require;
- the potential impact on existing providers;
- any concerns about the proposal; and
- whether any changes should be made before the proposal progresses.

Following the consultation, the Governing Board will consider the responses received and determine the school's next steps.

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