



Lift Percy Shurmer

School Based Nursery - Consultation 20th October 2025

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Introduction

Lift Schools and Lift Percy Shurmer are consulting on a proposal to lower the age range of the school from 3 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years, to provide an additional nursery class for 2 year olds and the introduction of a full Foundation Stage within the school from September 2026. This initiative is in line with government policy to expand provision for children aged 2-5 and in particular, increase provision that can be easily accessed in local schools. To this end, Lift Schools and Lift Percy Shurmer are applying for the DfE's School Based Nursery Capital Grant to fund the work needed to accommodate this additional provision on the school site. This document outlines the consultation process and timescales for lowering the school age to facilitate the nursery class and invites you to submit your views.

Background

Lift Percy Shurmer is a two form entry primary school in Balsall Heath, Birmingham. The school is at the heart of its community. The trust and school leadership teams believe that a nursery class will benefit the children and families in the local community, through the provision of high-quality affordable childcare and quality education for children from 2 years to 11 years, enabling families to use their Government Funded Early Education childcare entitlement at one setting without top-up fees. The existing nursery is oversubscribed, and feedback from many families over the past few years has indicated a demand for more places. The school is graded as Ofsted 'Outstanding' and is consistently one of the highest performing in both Birmingham and nationally.



The Proposal

Lift Schools is proposing to lower the age range of Lift Percy Shurmer from 3-11 years, to 2-11 years. Lift Schools has followed the DfE guidance by consulting with Birmingham Local Authority before making this proposal.

Why are we proposing to change the age range of Lift Percy Shurmer?

We propose to expand Lift Percy Shurmer's age range from 3-11 to 2-11 to better serve our community. This change is in response to the growing demand for high quality nursery provision within a school setting. By introducing a nursery class for 2 year olds, we aim to provide a seamless educational journey for children, reducing the number of transitions they experience. Additionally, we believe that parents would prefer their children to start nursery with us, ensuring continuity and ease for families. This expansion will help us meet the needs of our community while maintaining the high standards of education we are known for. Lift Schools already have a number of very successful nursery provisions in the region and Lift Percy Shurmer's existing 3 year old provision is extremely strong and has been acknowledged by Ofsted as of extremely high standard. Utilising our experience in supporting children with significant hearing loss or subsequent language delay, we plan to offer a small number of dedicated spaces for these children within the new nursery class.

The increase of our Foundation Stage offer will also allow children to progress in line with their developmental age rather than chronological age, by providing fluidity between the nursery class and reception class where appropriate, and enable our educationalists to deliver high quality early years and primary education, covering a rich and varied curriculum, something that we do very well. A school-based nursery also supports the Government's Policy on providing 15 and 30 hours Funded Early Education for 2, 3- and 4-year-olds in schools.

Our Vision

Through establishing an additional nursery class for 2 year olds and creating a complete foundation stage, Lift Percy Shurmer aims to fulfil its mission to provide an excellent education to every child in every classroom, every day. We believe that with excellent leadership and teaching in every classroom we will help children go on to lead successful and happy lives.

At Lift Percy Shurmer, we are committed to helping every child succeed, whatever their background or ability. We want to create a safe, stimulating and supportive atmosphere where children can love life, learning and play.

We aim to offer our pupils rich and exciting learning opportunities that will help them to achieve and develop, and inspire them to do their very best. We want our children to leave us as confident and respectful young people, equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in their lives ahead. Our children are passionate about their learning, be it in the traditional classroom or through drama, music or sports. We aim to give children of all abilities every opportunity to develop their academic, social, emotional and physical aspects of learning.

At Lift Percy Shurmer we are committed to providing an outstanding education for all children. Lift Percy Shurmer is a very caring community. We embrace our community and our families but also feel part of our larger family Lift Schools. Our students feel a strong sense of belonging. Our school is a safe haven where



everyone is valued. We will combine our outdoor resources, strong community links and rich and broad curriculum to develop confident, motivated, and responsible children who will be prepared for secondary school and make a positive contribution to society and their local community.

Lift Schools and Lift Percy Shurmer believes that the creation of an additional nursery class for 2 year olds will:

- Optimise the use of our facilities and capitalise on our expertise and knowledge of education and early years foundation stage provision, and through the provision of a qualified teacher in early years.
- Ensure quality education across the Early Years Framework - communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, and expressive arts and design.
- Improve children's life chances by:
 - Providing a strong start to school life with a focus on developing language, social skills and physical development within a dedicated and enabling environment
 - Welcoming families to the Lift Percy Shurmer family at the earliest opportunity so that all children, including our most vulnerable, benefit from firm foundations to their school life
 - Identifying special educational needs and disabilities, and social, emotional and mental health needs of children, to ensure early interventions are put in place
 - Closing the gap in attainment of pupil premium children and their peers
 - Developing a love of reading through carefully selected quality texts
- Attract even more first choice applications to Lift Percy Shurmer and help realise the associated positive impacts of this, such as financial benefits of a full school, community cohesion through the provision of local nursery places for local children, parental involvement and outreach, reduced traffic and long-term friendships with greater sense of belonging.
- Establish nursery places for pupils with significant hearing loss or subsequent language delay, building on the success of our well established Deaf Learning Base, allowing pupils to benefit from a high quality school based nursery coupled with support for their learning needs
- Ensure the financial sustainability of the school for future generations of children in the area
- Provide continuity of education from 2 to 11 years
- Align with Birmingham Local Authority's strategy and Ofsted's preference for school-attached early years education
- Provide employment opportunities within the area

We expect to have capacity for approximately 16 places in the new 2 year nursery class, including three to four places specifically for deaf children. We plan to refurbish and use space underutilised by our existing 3 year old provision, which includes easy access to an enclosed outside space. Nursery children would also be able to access school facilities and outdoor spaces, as well as joining for appropriate school events.

We appreciate local families, with and without children, our neighbours, local residents, and local early years providers will have a number of questions. To help answer some of your initial queries the Trust, School Leaders and Early Years Leader have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions (see below).

Why are we consulting now?

Following an initial feedback from families, which indicated a need and desire within the local community for nursery provision at Lift Percy Shurmer, Lift Schools are following the non statutory consultation process as required for schools applying for the School Based Nursery Capital Grant, which also incorporates the process to make a significant change to an academy. This application is progressing in consultation with the Local Authority. Changes to the DfE/Ofsted Regulations enabling schools to include provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds will ensure that the nursery provision will be included within the school's



inspection process. If the trust is successful in securing capital funding to support this project, it is hoped that the provision will open at the start of the Autumn term 2026, for children who are aged 2 and over.

Will the Proposal have any impact on the school's admission arrangements?

There are no planned changes to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 Reception places. We intend to add a further 16 nursery spaces (term time only) for 2 year olds. In line with the Schools Admission Code 2021, we are unable to provide an automatic right for children attending the nursery class to gain a reception place at the school. Parents of children applying for a reception place would need to apply in the normal way for admission to the primary school whether their child attends the nursery provision or not in line with the admission policy published on the school website. However, by attracting local families to the nursery class, we hope that the majority of families will be successful should they choose to apply to the reception class at Lift Percy Shurmer.

Finance and resourcing

The provision will be financed through a combination of government funding and fees. The nursery will be free at point of delivery, accepting early years funding covering 15 Funded Early Education (FEE) hours of provision for each 2, 3 and 4 year old. The provision will be managed by staff at Lift Percy Shurmer and Lift Schools.

Capital planning and buildings

The new 2-year nursery class will be located in one of the existing classrooms used by our 3 year old provision (during the half week when this is not in use), with easy access to an enclosed outside play space. The room will have minor refurbishment to make it suitable for 2-year provision, including the addition of suitable nappy changing facilities added to the existing toilets. It is hoped this work will be funded by the School Based Nursery Capital Grant.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

It is proposed that the new nursery class opens, and age range is lowered, from September 2026, subject to site work being completed.

This change requires a period of non-statutory consultation, which we are running from 22nd of October to 19th November. During this period, Lift Schools, supported by Birmingham Local Authority, will share its proposals with the wider professional network, local schools, local community, partner agencies, and the staff and parents of the school. This will provide an opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken. Following the consultation period, Lift Schools will consider responses and apply to the DfE to make a decision regarding the nursery site, taking into account the consultation responses. The decision will be published on the school's website once the funding bid outcome is available in Spring 2025.



Have your say

Lift Schools and Lift Percy Shurmer would like to know what key stakeholders feel about the proposal. The consultation will open on 22nd October for three weeks. You can provide your views via this [consultation response form](#). This is also available on our school website.

All responses must be received by 19th November.

What happens next

We will hold an online public meeting for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposal and to hear the views that people have. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend. The online event will be held on **Tuesday 11th November 1:30 - 2:30**. There will be a short presentation followed by questions and answers. Please join to share your views and ask questions. You do not need to have a child at the school to join the meeting.

Please use this link to join the meeting: meet.google.com/scn-eoww-vcv

At the end of the consultation period, we will review all the responses received and share these with Birmingham Local Authority and the DfE. We will update the school community once the outcome of the bid is known which is anticipated to be Spring 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Will you provide places for children in receipt of 15 and 30 hours Funded Early Education entitlement?

We will offer places to children in receipt of Funded Early Education (FEE and FEET) hours. Currently we will only have capacity to offer places covering 15 FEE/FEET hours.

2. Can additional hours above FEE or FEET funded hours be purchased and if so, how much will it cost?

We do not expect initially to offer the ability to book additional childcare hours, however this will be reviewed if we see demand change.

3. What entrances will be used? Can we come onto site to drop off within the setting?

Parents will use the same entry points as the existing nursery on Sherbourne Road.

4. If we attend the nursery, do we have to go to the school?

Although we hope that you will want your child to continue their education at Lift Percy Shurmer, there is no requirement for you to apply to the Reception class at Lift Percy Shurmer.

5. If we attend the nursery, do we get a priority place for the school?



No. Currently no mainstream school in England can offer priority places to children attending a school-attached nursery. All parents wishing their child to join the school in Reception class will need to apply in line with the school's admission arrangements detailed on our website each year.

6. What areas of the school will the children have access to?

Whilst the nursery children will remain in their dedicated space for the majority of the time, the children will, on occasion, visit other parts of the school for assemblies or school events; as well as using the enclosed play area.

7. Will the nursery children mix with older children and their siblings?

The nursery children will integrate with our older year groups, through (occasional) shared assemblies, concerts, sports days, and other events throughout the year.

8. Will there be a teacher in the nursery?

Yes, the nursery will be overseen by a qualified teacher in Early Years, who works in our 3-year-old class.

9. Do you have qualified first aiders?

Yes, staff will hold Pediatric Level 3 First Aid Qualification

10. How will you manage increased traffic as a result of this change?

The addition of up to 16 nursery pupils will increase the number on roll at Lift Percy Shurmer by less than 5%. Additionally, as one of the key benefits will be having families in one place we expect that many would have siblings accessing the same site. As a result, we are not anticipating a significant increase in traffic.

11. Where do the meals come from?

Meals will be prepared in our onsite kitchen.

12. Will the children be expected to wear school uniform? What does my child need to wear?

Yes, nursery children have the option of wearing a Nursery polo shirt and/or sweatshirt with their own clothes. This is to provide a sense of belonging to Lift Percy Shurmer. Children need to wear appropriate and comfortable footwear.

13. Will it be free flow to an outdoor area?

Yes, the nursery has an outdoor sheltered play area and free-flow access will be available each day. We encourage outdoor learning and your child will be able to move freely between the inside and outside learning environment throughout all seasons. This will be replicated in the EYFS classrooms.