



Baltonsborough Church of England Primary School

Consultation Document

Proposal to Extend the Age Range from 4–11 to 2–11 Years

If you need this document in a different format or language, please contact Baltonsborough C of E Primary School via the school office on telephone number: 01458 850526 or email office@baltonsborough.acexcellence.co.uk

Proposal

The Academies for Character and Excellence Trust is proposing to extend the age range of Baltonsborough C of E Primary School from 4–11 years to 2–11 years with effect from September 2026.

This proposal will enable the school to establish nursery provision for children aged 2–4 years and provide a seamless educational journey from the early years through to Key Stage 2.

Background

Baltonsborough and surrounding rural communities have experienced increasing pressure on local childcare provision following the closure of local nursery settings serving the area.

The Trust and school have been working closely with Somerset Council regarding local childcare sufficiency and the need to maintain accessible early years provision within the community.

The proposal supports Somerset Council in fulfilling its statutory childcare sufficiency duties under the Childcare Act 2006.

The proposed nursery provision would operate from an existing classroom within the school building, alongside a secure outdoor area and age-appropriate facilities.

The Academy Trust has already completed and funded the required adaptations to prepare the space for nursery use.

Nursery Provision

The proposed nursery provision will initially offer:

- 15-place nursery provision
- Places for children aged 2–4 years
- Term-time provision from September 2026

The nursery will operate as part of Baltonsborough C of E Primary School and The Academies for Character and Excellence Trust.

The Trust has established experience in delivering high-quality nursery and early years provision across schools within the Trust and has existing robust systems for safeguarding, curriculum development, operational oversight and staff training.

The nursery will benefit from experienced early years staff already working within the school and wider Trust. This change will also give further opportunities for staff recruitment and developing skills within the existing team.

The proposal does not reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) or the school's capacity for statutory school-aged pupils and will not place pressure on existing classroom accommodation.

Parents will still need to make a separate application for a Reception place through Somerset Council admissions arrangements.

Funding & Sustainability

No capital funding or financial contribution is being requested, and the Trust is not applying for Department for Education School-Based Nursery capital funding.

The provision has been developed using existing Trust resources and is expected to operate on a financially sustainable basis through nursery funding and parental fee income.

The longer-term ambition is to develop extended wraparound childcare and holiday provision in response to local community demand.

The Process

The proposal to extend the age range of the school requires the submission of a Significant Change application to the Department for Education (DfE).

Following the end of this consultation, and consideration of all responses received, The Academies for Character and Excellence Trust intend to submit the required application to the Department for Education.

All consultation responses will be considered by the school and Trust before any final decision is made.

Proposed Timeline

The proposed timetable is as follows:

4-week Consultation:	23 rd June to 21 st July 2026
Review of Consultation Responses	22 nd July 2026
Submission to DfE	24 th July 2026
Proposed implementation:	1st September 2026

Responding to the Consultation

We welcome comments, feedback and questions from parents, carers, staff, local residents, community groups and other interested parties.

Responses can be submitted by following the below link to leave comments for the consultation

Email: <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/baltonsborough-school-age-range-consultation/>

Post: Sam Ward, c/o Baltonsborough C of E Primary School

Ham Street,
Baltonsborough,
Nr Glastonbury,
Somerset,
BA6 8PX

Please mark responses: "Nursery Consultation Response"

Personal Data

Should any personal information be submitted through email or in writing, this will be processed in accordance with data protection legislation and will not be shared outside of the consultation process other than where legally required.