

Notice of consultation on the proposal to change the age range of Appleton Primary School,

The Constellation Trust

Background:

The government have launched a national subsidy for early years education as part of their biggest expansion of childcare provision. This forms a broader effort to improve access to affordable high-quality childcare and education. The government and local authorities recognise that investing in early childhood care is critical for supporting working families, enhancing child development, and bolstering the economy.

A clear strategy to increase provision city wide is needed to meet this demand. It is already evident that places in private nurseries are at capacity; by widening the early years offer in our primary schools will allow us to increase the 2-year-old provision available to our families.

Specific Proposal:

The Constellation Trust, Appleton Primary School and the Local Authority, proposes to develop a provision for 2-year-old children within the existing footprint of the Appleton school building. In order to develop this provision, the Constellation Trust is consulting to change the age range of Appleton Primary School, from 3-11 to 2-11 years old.

The purpose of this consultation is to provide information relating to the proposal and to seek the views of parents and the wider community.

Appleton Primary School currently offers an early years foundation stage curriculum, for 3 and 4 year olds prior to their entry into the school. The Constellation Trust recognises the Governments national scheme to increase support for parents (*as described above*) as an exciting opportunity to expand its high-quality provision to include 2-year-olds.

The expansion will help extend and improve the early years opportunities, making Appleton Primary School increasingly attractive to local families.

The proposed provision will offer an additional sixteen places for two-year-old children. These places will be for children eligible for free 15/30hrs early education or to parents/carers who wish to pay themselves for this service. The aim of our early years provision is to help support working parents and prepare children for school readiness.

The provision will be delivered from a newly refurbished early years centre, designed specifically for 2-year-old children, with its own private outdoor play area. This facility has been carefully designed and resourced so that it safely meets the needs of children of this age range.

We expect that this expansion, to our already successful early years provision, will assist us in providing our children with the best possible start in their education. We anticipate that investing in this support and by developing early relationships with families, we will help raise standards on entry into reception and make the transition to school seamless.

How to respond:

You are invited to submit comments about the proposal within the consultation period of 3 weeks. The consultation will open between the dates of **Wednesday 13th November 2024 to Wednesday 4th December 2024** inclusive, via the link/QR code below.

Following the consultation period the Constellation Trust will consider all responses and take these into account.

<https://forms.office.com/e/8RydnBeC7r>

