



Public Consultation – Autumn 2024

Proposed Extension of the Governor Led Preschool at Broadway First School

This document contains information that will help you understand the issues surrounding this proposed change. An informal virtual drop-in session has been arranged to explain the proposal and to answer questions:

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Friday 20 th September to Friday 18 th October 2024 |
| Q and A drop in | Monday 7 th October from 9.30am to 10.30am at Broadway First School Please register your attendance at: office@broadway.worcs.sch.uk |
| Venue | Broadway First School Lime Tree Avenue, Broadway, WR12 7BD Email: office@broadway.worcs.sch.uk |

Dear Parents / Governors / Colleagues

Consultation on proposed extension of our Governor Led Preschool to include a Nursery at Broadway First School.

This document explains:

- Why we feel it is appropriate to consider the expansion of our Governor Led Nursery at Broadway First School
- The timescale for the consultation
- Who is being consulted
- What happens at the end of the consultation period

Have your say

It is very important that all those involved have a say. A copy of the response form can be downloaded from the school website or a hard copy picked up from the school office. You can also submit online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/yJeRQeLc1F>

Responses must be submitted using the response form to:

Broadway First School
Lime Tree Avenue,
Broadway,
WR11 7PW

Or e-mail to
office@broadway.worcs.sch.uk

Responses must be received by noon on Friday 18th October 2024.

Yours sincerely,

L Poultney

Mr Lee Poultney

Headteacher
Broadway First School

Responses required by Friday 18th October 2024

Background information

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to secure, as far as is reasonably possible, early years education provision that is of good quality, accessible, flexible, inclusive and provided through a range of settings to meet parental demand for childcare.

Since the 2006 Childcare Act, families with three-and four-year-old children in England are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, beginning in the term after their third birthday and until the child reaches compulsory school age. This universal offer was introduced to support child development and school readiness. In 2013 this offer was extended to eligible families from the term following the child's second birthday. In 2023 the government announced an expansion of the childcare programme to provide access to supported childcare for younger children and babies for working families and extended 2-year-old funded provision. The new offer for working families from April 2024, entitles working parents of 2-year-old children up to 15 hours of funded childcare per week, from the term following their child's 2nd birthday. From September 2024, this will be expanded to include children from the term after they turn 9 months of age. From September 2025, working parents of children aged between 9 months and 5 years of age, will be entitled to up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week, until the child starts school.

Broadway First School currently offers early education places for 4-year olds as part of their maintained age range of the school. The school also currently offers a governor led preschool provision called Laugh 'n' Learn for 3-year olds, which forms part of the school's early years provision. This means the provision is teacher led and children are considered as pupils of the school in every day practice.

Under the new proposed nursery provision, the children and staff will also be part of the Broadway First School's governor led preschool enabling children able to access the same educational expertise and a clear educational pathway through the Early Years Framework and beyond.

The Proposal

The school's leadership feels that the time is right to consider the expansion of Laugh 'n' Learn, the current governor led provision for three-and four-year olds, by offering nursery care for children from 9 months old. It is intended that care would be available for 12 under two-year olds from 8.30am to 3.30pm with the option of before and after Wraparound Care to support working parents. Initially, it is expected the nursery would open term time only but there is the option for all-year round provision to be considered if there was sufficient demand to support this. There is currently no provision in the local area that provides this service.

In order to do so, the school will complete a new Early Years Foundation Stage registration with Ofsted to complement the existing governor led preschool. By extending the governor led nursery provision to younger children in Broadway:

- Children attending the Laugh 'n' Learn will be under the Broadway First School umbrella and will be considered part of the school community (although not officially pupils of the school). This means the high standards of safeguarding, pastoral support and children's own personal development can be accessed at an early age.
- Children and their families will benefit from the rich and broad curriculum on offer, supported by a wealth of experienced and highly qualified staff at Broadway First School.

- Parents and carers will benefit from the opportunity to access services using existing and established methods used by Broadway First School. Registration of all children will be consistent, as will tracking of attendance, academic attainment and access to support and services.
- The addition of the nursery will support the sustainability of local preschool provision and future pupil numbers at Broadway First School. Admission into the nursery will be in line with the admissions policy. This change will have no impact to the admissions policy and criteria for existing preschool and school places.

If approved, the proposed changes would take effect from the commencement of the summer term, Monday 28th April 2025 subject to all necessary undertakings being in place.

Evidence of Demand

Broadway First School is a popular school and was rated 'Good' with many outstanding features by Ofsted in March 2023. The online inspection report provided a detailed review on the quality provision across the school and within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school's Senior Leadership Team has significant early years knowledge and includes the expertise of a highly qualified and experienced Early Years leader.

The school's Governing Body have played an integral part in considering this proposal with in-depth discussions and research before voting positively to progress the proposal. The results of a recent childcare sufficiency survey supported the need for childcare places for younger children in and around the Broadway area. Currently there is no childcare provision for children under 2 available in Broadway. Public transport is extremely limited and settings in more densely populated areas do not have sufficient places available.

The take up of preschool places from families living within the village is successful and this proposal is anticipated to provide further positive impact by giving families options when considering early care for their children. As a result, this proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on other providers currently serving the wider Broadway area.

Accommodation Required

It is proposed that the school will recommence its lease of the Apple Vale Children's Centre from Worcestershire County Council, which is located directly next to the school. The proposal will make use of the currently unused rooms at the centre with just minor amendments required to ensure sufficient space to meet standards as detailed in the Early Years Framework. The school already has a clear established commitment to working with other preschool and nursery settings, in particular Towerview Playschool, who currently occupy areas of the Children's Centre. There are already a number of shared and established practices in place with Towerview and these would not be compromised by this proposal. Indeed, it is hoped that relationships could be further strengthened. Work would continue to support transition and in-year admissions to Broadway First School as children reach Reception age. The school is also committed to working with others to ensure any child that splits funding between more than one setting receives high quality provision. This includes working with the Local Authority and other settings to ensure staff receive up-to-date training and development to provide children with a high-quality broad and balanced education.

How the decision will be made

At the conclusion of this consultation period, the governors will consider all responses that have been made before deciding whether to progress with the proposal.

This will allow key parties to review evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

- The response to the public consultation
- The quality of education provision at the school
- The ability of the school to manage the proposed change to support the continued improvements at the school
- Demand for places at Laugh 'n' Learn and in the local area

Who is being consulted?

This document will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending Broadway First School and Laugh 'n' Learn Preschool
- Staff and governors of other local schools
- Local District and County Councillors
- The Local Authority
- Immediate neighbours
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Education
- Any other local stakeholder

What happens next?

Consultation Phase – Friday 20th September to Friday 18th October 2024

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the options expressed in this document. This document and the meeting detailed on the cover form part of the consultation.

The governors will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period, a decision will be made whether to proceed with the proposal or not. The Governing Body will prepare a recommendations report for a decision at a Governing Body meeting, and publish this alongside the decision.

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by noon on **Friday 18th October 2024** by completing the online response form available on the school website and WCC website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations. If you are unable to access the online response form you can obtain a paper copy from the school office.