

Consultation on the opening of a governor-led nursery at Pickhill CE Primary School, part of the Synergy Schools Federation

Context

Pickhill Church of England Primary School is part of the Synergy Schools Federation and currently provides education for children aged between 4 and 11. The school and all the schools that are part of the federation, have been rated as 'good' by Ofsted in recent inspections.

After undertaking recent market research and speaking at length to many parents and carers in the local Pickhill community, it has become clear that there is a desire for local nursery education. After much discussion with stakeholders, the governing body has made the decision to formally consult on the proposal to open a governor-led nursery at Pickhill CE Primary School at the start of the autumn term, in September 2025.

Consultation Details

Consultation Dates	Friday 2 nd May 2025 until Monday 2 nd June 2025
Information session	Monday 12 th May at 5.30pm at Pickhill CE Primary School
How to share your views	<p>By clicking this link and responding to the survey: https://forms.office.com/e/NwbVwHAUNN</p> <p>By post: Pickhill CE Primary School, Pickhill, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 4JL</p> <p>By email: admin@pickhill.school</p>

Please note that consultation responses must be received by noon on Monday, May 12th 2025.

Consultees

- Parents and carers of pupils attending Pickhill CE Primary School
- Our staff and governing body
- Staff at other schools within the federation

- Staff and governors of other local schools
- Local district and parish councillors
- Other local providers
- All other stakeholders

Proposal

- The nursery will initially run term-time only, 9.00am until 3.30pm. However, the school's wraparound care will also be open for nursery children. This opens at 7.30am and closes at 6.00pm.
- Children will be allowed to start the nursery immediately after their 3rd birthday.
- It is hoped that the nursery will be opened to 2 year olds from September 2026.
- If this proposal goes ahead, the class structure will change from September, as follows:

Current Class Structure (2 classes)

Class 1	4 x Reception + 4 x Year 1 + 10 x Year 2 = 18 pupils
Class 2	10 x Year 3 + 9 x Year 4 + 9 x Year 5 + 2 x Year 6 = 30 pupils

Proposed Class Structure (3 classes)

Class 1	? x Nursery + 5 x Reception + 4 Year 1 = 9 pupils + Nursery
Class 2	4 x Year 2 + 10 x Year 3 = 14 pupils
Class 3	10 x Year 4 + 9 x Year 5 + 9 x Year 6 = 28 pupils

- The nursery will initially have 12 places available per morning and afternoon session.
- The nursery children will be integrated with the Reception and Year 1 classroom. There will always be a qualified teacher in the classroom, supported by at least 1 well-qualified teaching assistant, possibly more dependent upon numbers.
- The outdoor area will be accessible to all children.
- If the proposal goes ahead, the classroom and outdoor area will be refurbished over the summer holidays to ensure that it is fully compatible with nursery education whilst still being able to provide high-quality education for our Reception and Year 1 pupils simultaneously.

Evidence of Demand

- School staff implemented a recent survey of parents with 0-4 year old children to ask whether they would use a nursery at Pickhill CE Primary School. The response was very positive and of 16 responses, 11 suggested that they would use the provision from September 2025, if it was available. The other 5 would use the provision when their children are old enough.
- A 'Pop in and Play' session has been available for the community regularly every two weeks for the last 3 years. This group attracts between 10 and 20 children each session.

- It is not thought that this proposed new nursery would impact on current providers as numbers of available places are very small and the families that have been asked whether they would use it are all very local to Pickhill CE Primary School.

The Benefits

- Having nursery children start their school experience early at Pickhill CE Primary School will undoubtedly have a positive impact on their transition into reception and the older age groups.
- The school will be able to plan and deliver a nursery curriculum that is closely tailored to its reception curriculum. This will really benefit the children when they begin to read and write.
- Providing this facility for the community will mean less travel time for parents and carers.
- It will provide greater convenience for parents and carers if they have older siblings on site – only one drop off and pick up will be required.
- This solution benefits from having a qualified teacher leading the classroom. Many providers don't.

Next Steps

After the consultation period closes, our governing body will meet and decide whether to proceed with the proposal. We'll let the community and consultees know their decision as soon as possible.

May 2025