



# Consultation on the Proposal to Extend Nursery Provision to Include Two-Year-Old Places

**Consultation Period:** 27<sup>th</sup> October – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

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## 1. Introduction

Bentham Community Primary School is committed to providing high-quality early years education that meets the needs of our children, families, and community. We are currently reviewing our nursery provision and are proposing to extend it to include places for **two-year-old children**.

This consultation seeks the views of parents, staff, governors, and members of the wider community on this proposal before any final decisions are made.

## 2. Background

Our current nursery provision offers part-time and full-time places for children aged three and four. Over the past year, there has been increasing interest from families with younger children seeking early education opportunities in a familiar and nurturing school environment.

Extending our nursery to include two-year-old provision would enable us to:

- Support early development and school readiness from a younger age
- Strengthen continuity and transition within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Meet growing community demand for childcare and early education
- Provide high-quality, inclusive early years learning led by qualified staff

## 3. Proposal

We propose to extend the existing nursery provision to accommodate children aged two years old, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

The proposal includes:

- Creating a dedicated and appropriately equipped space for two-year-olds within our Early Years setting
- Staffing the provision with experienced early years practitioners
- Offering both **funded** and **paid** places, depending on family eligibility and need
- Aligning opening times and sessions with the current nursery to offer flexibility for families

#### 4. Benefits of the Proposal

- **High-quality early learning:** Access to stimulating, play-based learning experiences from age two
- **Smooth transition:** Familiar environment and staff supporting children from age two through to Reception
- **Support for families:** Increased flexibility and availability of funded early education places
- **Community impact:** Strengthening links between the school and local families from an earlier stage

#### 5. Considerations

We are mindful of the importance of:

- Ensuring high staffing ratios appropriate for two-year-olds (1 adult to 5 children)
- Adapting facilities to meet the needs of younger children
- Maintaining high standards of safeguarding and care
- Managing demand and capacity within our existing nursery spaces

#### 6. Consultation Process

We are keen to hear your views on this proposal. The consultation will end on 23rd November 2025. You can share your feedback in the following ways:

- **Online:** <https://forms.office.com/e/Sz2K9QnYe3>
- **Email:** [headteacher@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk)
- **In person:** Drop your comments into the school office
- **Meetings:** Parents, staff, and governors will have opportunities to discuss the proposal at scheduled meetings during the consultation period.

All feedback received will be considered before a final decision is made by the school's Governing Board.

#### 7. Next Steps

After the consultation closes, a summary of the feedback and the governing body's decision will be shared with all stakeholders. If approved, we aim to begin the new provision in the Spring Term with details of how to apply for places communicated in due course.

#### 8. Conclusion

Bentham Primary School values the strong partnership we have with our families and community. We believe that extending our nursery provision to include two-year-olds represents an exciting opportunity to enhance our early years offer and give our youngest learners the best possible start in their educational journey. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

*Richard Wright*

Headteacher  
Bentham Primary School