



Public consultation –
3 - 24 September 2026

Proposed School Based Nursery of St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School

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

Date	Thursday 17 September 2026
Time	2:45pm
Venue/Link	St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School, Stourport

Dear Parents / Carers / Governors / Colleagues / Parish / LA

Consultation on School Based Nursery at St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School

This document explains:

- Why we feel it is appropriate to consider a School Based Nursery
- 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.

Responses must be submitted to:

St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School
Elmfield Walk
Stourport-on-Severn
DY13 8UB

Or e-mail to enquiry_wul@emmausmac.com

Or completed via Microsoft Forms using the link below:

[St Wulstan's School Based Nursery Consultation Response – Fill in form](#)

Responses must be received by noon on 24 September 2026

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Bury
Executive Principal

Responses required by 24 September 2026
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Background information

- Local authorities have a duty to:
 - Secure childcare free of charge for children eligible for one (or more) of the early education entitlements.
 - Secure sufficient childcare for parents to enable them to work or undertake education or training which could assist them to obtain work

To support this duty, we are consulting on the proposal to create early years provision at school.

- A fair and transparent consultation is a requirement of the change process for schools to create or extend their Early Years provision:
 - Academy School Age-Range Change [Making significant changes to an academy](#)
- The consultation will be open from 3 September 2026 to 24 September 2026 to enable all relevant stakeholders to respond to the proposal.
- St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School is a 4–11 primary school located in Stourport-on-Severn and is part of Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company. The school currently has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 pupils per year group.
- The school was inspected by Ofsted in February 2025 and was judged to provide a good standard of Early Years provision.
- St Wulstan's has an experienced Early Years team and established arrangements for supporting children as they transition into Reception. The school also benefits from strong SEND expertise, including a dedicated SENCO, together with access to the wider support and expertise available through Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company.
- The school's Early Years facilities include dedicated indoor and outdoor learning environments, with further development of outdoor provision underway. The school also has a trained Forest School leader and access to Forest School provision.
- Until July 2026, nursery provision was available on the St Wulstan's site through Wulstan's Lodge, an independent nursery operated separately from the school. Wulstan's Lodge rented premises on the school site and was not operated or managed by St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School.
- Wulstan's Lodge ceased operating on 17 July 2026. St Wulstan's does not currently operate its own nursery provision; children are admitted to the school from Reception age.
- The proposal follows the unexpected closure of Wulstan's Lodge, the independently operated nursery previously located on the St Wulstan's site. The nursery ceased operating in July 2026, resulting in the loss of approximately 20–30 local childcare places.
- Following the closure, the school engaged with affected families, with parents expressing interest in school-based nursery provision, particularly for children from age two, alongside wraparound care and continuity into Reception. Communication with these parents is being maintained.
- The proposal would enable St Wulstan's to build upon its existing Early Years expertise and make effective use of available space within the school. A school-based nursery would provide children with greater continuity into Reception, earlier access to the school's SEND and pastoral support, and the opportunity for families to access nursery, primary education and wraparound care within one setting.
- Worcestershire County Council's placement team has provided written support for the school to pursue an application for Department for Education School-Based Nursery funding.
- No final decision has been made, and feedback received through this consultation will help inform the development of the proposal.

The Proposal

- St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School is proposing to establish a school-run nursery for children aged two to four, with a maximum capacity of 45 places (initial planned capacity: ten 2-year-olds, ten 3-year-olds, fifteen 4-year-olds), subject to the outcome of consultation, assessment of demand and final approval.
- The nursery would be operated and governed by the school, with appropriate oversight from the school's leadership and governance arrangements and Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company. The appropriate mechanism for establishing the provision, including any required change to the school's registered age range, will be confirmed as the proposal progresses.
- The nursery would be led and staffed by appropriately qualified and experienced Early Years practitioners in accordance with the statutory EYFS staffing and ratio requirements applicable to the final model. It would work closely with the school's existing Reception provision and Early Years Lead, drawing upon the experience of existing staff and the school's established expertise in phonics, SEND, safeguarding and Early Years education.
- The nursery is proposed to operate during school term time, with the intention that children would also be able to access the school's wraparound care where appropriate. Final opening hours will be determined following consultation and consideration of the needs of families.
- Subject to the necessary approvals and funding, the school would aim to open the nursery from January 2027, or as soon thereafter as practicable. The provision may be developed in phases depending upon demand, staffing, accommodation and the ages of children requiring places.
- The proposal would not increase the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception. Nursery attendance would not guarantee or give priority to a Reception place, and applications for Reception would continue to be made through the normal school admissions process.
- The nursery would be integrated with existing school systems, including safeguarding, SEND support, Early Years curriculum planning, transition arrangements, and wraparound care. Existing accommodation within the school site would be adapted to provide suitable nursery facilities, with access to appropriate indoor and outdoor Early Years learning environments.
- The proposed nursery is intended to complement rather than replace other childcare provision within Stourport. The school recognises that a number of local early years providers offer places to families and consultation with local providers will form an important part of the process. The proposal would restore early years provision to a site where nursery services have previously operated, while offering a distinctive school-based option with continuity from nursery into Reception and primary education.

Evidence of Demand

- St Wulstan's currently has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30. Reception numbers have been 12 pupils in 2025/26, with a similar number anticipated for September 2026. This reflects the wider context of falling birth rates across Worcestershire, and the Local Authority is currently considering a reduction in the school's PAN.
- However, there is evidence of specific demand for Early Years provision at St Wulstan's. Until July 2026, approximately 20–30 children of varying ages attended Wulstan's Lodge, the independently operated nursery located on the school site. Its closure resulted in the loss of this established provision.

- The school has considered the availability of other Early Years settings locally and is aware that some providers are currently advertising places. The proposal is therefore not based on an assumption that there is a general shortage of all childcare places within Stourport. Instead, it seeks to respond to the loss of established provision while offering a distinctive school-based option for children from age two, with wraparound care, SEND support and continuity into Reception.
- Initial informal feedback has been positive. Following the closure of Wulstan's Lodge, the school contacted affected families to advise that it was exploring the establishment of a school-based nursery. Families spoken to expressed interest in the proposal, with some indicating that they would be willing to wait for the provision to open. Parents have particularly identified provision from age two, wraparound care, continuity into Reception and the ability for siblings to attend the same setting as attractive features.
- Discussions have also taken place with Worcestershire County Council's placement team, which has provided written support for the school to pursue an application for Department for Education School-Based Nursery funding.
- The school is proposing an initial capacity of approximately 35 places, subject to consultation and further assessment of demand. This relatively small-scale provision is intended to complement existing local settings rather than significantly displace them. Feedback from parents, local Early Years providers and other stakeholders through this consultation will be important in determining the appropriate size and structure of any future provision.

Accommodation Required

- Details of changes to accommodation including drawings are available to view on the school website or by request at the school office.
- <https://stwulstans.sch.life/page/detail/school-based-nursery-consultation>

Financial Considerations

- The proposed nursery would be operated by St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School and would be expected to be financially sustainable. Ongoing revenue costs, including staffing, resources and consumables, would be managed through the nursery's income, including government-funded early education and childcare entitlements and any applicable parental fees. Staffing levels would be planned in line with demand and statutory EYFS qualification and ratio requirements.
- Detailed financial modelling will form part of the feasibility process to ensure that the proposed provision is sustainable and does not place undue financial pressure on the school's existing budget.
- The school has received written support from Worcestershire County Council's placement team to pursue an application for Department for Education School-Based Nursery funding. Subject to a successful application, this capital funding would be used to support the accommodation changes required to establish suitable nursery provision within the existing school site.
- The scope of any building or refurbishment works will be determined through the feasibility process, taking account of the proposed number and ages of children, statutory requirements and the most effective use of existing school accommodation.

How the decision will be made

At the conclusion of this consultation period, Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company will determine whether to proceed with the proposal and submit a Change of Age-Range application to the Department for Education (DfE).

Who is being consulted?

This document has been made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School
- Parents and carers in the local community
- Staff, Governors and Managers of other local schools and settings
- The Archdiocese of Birmingham
- The Local Authority via SPP@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Immediate neighbours
- Any other local stakeholder

What happens next?

Consultation Phase

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.

Department for Education Decision

Once an application is submitted to the DfE Regions Group, the DfE will determine if the Change of Age-Range is approved, taking into account the consultation responses.

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by noon on 24 September 2026 by completing the online response form available on the school website <https://stwulstans.sch.life>.

If you are unable to access the online response form you can obtain a paper copy from the school office or website.

<https://stwulstans.sch.life/page/detail/school-based-nursery-consultation>