



Appleton Wiske Community Primary School



PROPOSAL TO CREATE A GOVERNOR-RUN EARLY YEARS PROVISION

The Governing Body of Appleton Wiske Community Primary School would like to consult on the provision of places for 3 and 4 year olds in a governor-run early years provision within the school. We would like to know the views of parents and other interested members of the community.

Background Information

In the 2023 Spring Budget the Government announced a series of major changes to Early Years entitlements that came into effect from April 2024. Creating additional early years capacity is congruent with this Governmental priority.

Therefore, Appleton Wiske Community Primary School, under Section 28 of the Education Act 2002, is undertaking a consultation with school staff, parents and the wider community on a proposal to provide nursery care within the school. We would therefore appreciate your views in the decision making process on the following proposal.

Why are the governors making this proposal?

The proposal is being made in order to ensure that an early years provision continues for the community and surrounding villages. The primary school is dependent on the intake from pre-school / nursery provision to sustain its short and long term future. Wraparound / extended day provision is particularly in demand for working families and this would be considered as part of this proposal.

Why is an early years provision required?

All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to 15 hours per week of government funding (known as Universal Funding) to access Early Years education and childcare. This is from the start of term following their third birthday until compulsory school age or until they take up a place in a Reception class. Eligible working families are also able to access up to 15 hours of additional government funding known as Extended Entitlement – giving eligible working families the equivalent of 30 hours of government funded childcare per week for 38 weeks per year. A government funded place can be taken in a maintained school nursery and/or private or voluntary sector provision. It is parental choice as to which type of provision is most appropriate for their child and most convenient for individual circumstances.

What is the early years provision proposal?

Appleton Wiske Community Primary School is proposing to provide places for 3 and 4 year olds in a governor-run early years provision. Early Years staff would work together to provide an excellent environment for a young child's development in the early years. The nursery class would be led by an Early Years professional who is suitably qualified to support the learning and development of the 3 and 4 year olds. We are also considering linking this proposed nursery provision with the current wraparound provision, before and after school from 08:00 to 18:00, to meet parental demand, particularly the demand of those working parents who require a longer provision each day.

What could the governor-run early years provision look like?

There would be high quality play-based provision including role play, sand, water, construction, reading, mark making, and outside play. The learning environment would be equipped with suitable furniture, equipment and resources for 3 and 4 year olds. There would be free flow between areas, including outside, offering children the choice of activities and allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development. They would be supported by knowledgeable and appropriately trained adults who are in tune with each child's individual needs and who would work together with our school leadership team to provide an excellent environment for young children's learning and development.

Why is this consultation taking place?

Currently the youngest children that the school can admit are in the Reception class. In order to take younger children into the proposed governor-run early years provision, an informal consultation process must be followed. The first step in this process is to invite parents, prospective parents and local people for their views; we would really appreciate your feedback on this proposal. While this proposal is focused on nursery care for ages 3 and 4, we may consider extending the nursery provision to 2 year olds in the future and would also welcome your views on this requirement.

How many places will be offered?

From September 2025, we are proposing to offer 15 / 30 hours of early education each week in term time. The proposed nursery class could provide up to 12 full-time equivalent places each day, which could include provision over lunchtime. There would be an additional charge if a school dinner is provided. We are also considering options to offer to link this with our current school wraparound childcare provision from 08:00 to 18:00.

Which children would be eligible for a place?

Priority for admission to the nursery will be determined by the County Council's Admissions Policy for Nurseries. Admissions to the nursery would be separate from admissions to the school, which are determined by the County Council's policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. Further details are available at: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions>

Deciding on admissions

The Headteacher will make the offer of a place in writing to parents and carers.

How would the nursery class affect other providers?

The nursery class would take children aged 3 and 4. Local Early Years providers are being consulted and have the opportunity to make their views on the proposal known.

What will happen next?

This consultation is the first step in the evaluation process. Comments on this consultation will be considered by the Governing Body, and a full due diligence will be undertaken to assess the financial viability and practicality of having an in-school nursery, regarding the requirements of a nursery operation within the bounds of the existing school building, facilities and resources.

Governors must be assured that the addition of a nursery would not be a detriment to the existing school offer. They will then decide whether to proceed with the proposal to open a governor-led nursery provision. This consultation will provide a period of six weeks in which views and comments can be made and the Governing Body will not make their decision until the consultation period is closed.

If these proposals go ahead, when could the nursery class open?

It is proposed that the first children could join the nursery class in September 2025.

How do I make my views known?

Your views are important and we would value your opinions.

Please complete the attached consultation form and return it to the school by Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

If you have any further queries, these should be addressed to the Headteacher at admin@appletonwiske.northyorks.sch.uk

Appleton Wiske Community Primary School

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A GOVERNOR-RUN EARLY YEARS PROVISION

Do you consider it desirable that the school should provide governor-led nursery provision for 3 and 4 year olds?

Yes

No

Any further comments you would like to make:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Please tick the category you represent:

Parent

Governor

Other

Please specify _____

Please return to: Appleton Wiske Community Primary School, Front Street, Appleton Wiske, Northallerton, DL6 2AA or email: admin@appletonwiske.n-yorks.sch.uk

The closing date for receipt of responses is Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

We are collecting this information for the purpose of gathering views on the proposal. Your personal data will not be published or passed to any other organisation unless a legal obligation compels us to do so. We may contact you to discuss your views further.