

Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy
Consultation on proposal to change the
age range of the academy



L.E.A.D. Academy Trust
Lead • Empower • Achieve • Drive



Consultation proposal to change the age range of Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy from September 2025

Consultation period: 06 May 2025 – 2 June 2025

Introduction

Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy is proposing to make an application to the Department for Education to change its age range from 3 - 11 years to 4 - 11 years from September 2025.

As part of the consultation process and as part of the statutory requirements, we are consulting parents and carers of Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy, parents in the area, the Local Authority, other local primary schools and nurseries to seek feedback regarding the proposed change. The consultation process will run from Tuesday 6 May 2025 to Monday 2 June 2025. L.E.A.D. Academy Trust will then consider comments received during the consultation period.

Proposal

Bishop Academy L.E.A.D. Academy currently has a pupil admission number of 30 and capacity for 210 pupils, plus 26 nursery pupils in a morning and 26 nursery pupils in an afternoon. We currently admit children from the term after their third birthday as part of our nursery provision. Under the proposed changes, we will no longer offer nursery provision and will only admit pupils into reception as part of the normal admissions process.

Rationale

Our nursery provision has 26 places in a morning and 26 places in an afternoon, offering parents morning or afternoon sessions for a total of 15 hours a week, or both sessions for a total of 30 hours per week. It is open only during academy term-times.

The existing nursery provision does not offer the flexibility that many parents need, and the enrolment numbers have been decreasing in recent years, impacting the academy's budget.

In spring term 2025, only 31 out of 52 places are occupied, by 22 pupils, an occupancy rate of 60%. This is expected to reduce further in September 2025, with only 12 out of 52 available places occupied, by 8 children, an occupancy rate of 23%.

In our local area, there are other schools with a nursery provision and there are several private nurseries offering the flexibility parents require.

Nottinghamshire County Council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report 2024 indicates a vacancy rate of 20% to 30% for 2-4 year old places in the Newark and Sherwood district ward. The report also shows a high percentage of 3 and 4 year olds, 93.94% and 90.98%, in the ward taking up a place with a provider. Therefore, we do not expect an increase in demand sufficient to sustain our nursery provision in the future.

A significant proportion of the academy's funding is related to the number of pupil's attending. Excessive nursery vacancies reduce revenue while costs remain high. Adjusting the age range will ensure long-term stability and enable us to offer high-quality education.



- What do I need to do?
- If you have any questions or would like to comment on the proposal then please the contact the academy using the following methods
-
- In writing to Headteacher, Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy Wolsey Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 2BQ
- or by email to admin@bishopalexanderacademy.co.uk

Following the consultation period L.E.A.D. Academy Trust will consider any comments received and a decision will be made on how to proceed.