

December 12, 2024

To Parents, Staff and Members of the local Lyng community,

Lyng CE Primary School, the Nightingale Federation and the Diocese of Norwich Education Academies Trust are delighted to be considering opening Nursery provision on our school site for children aged 3 and 4.

This proposal will ensure a consistent approach to learning for our youngest children and enable us to meet some of the needs of the local community in relation to Early Years educational provision. From research carried out, following the introduction of our wraparound care, we believe our nursery would help provide families with the extended hours needed in the area, which are currently not provided for locally and require families to attend provision outside of Lyng. Our provision will also ensure school readiness by fostering a love of learning from the very early years and offering an opportunity for our EYFS team to build relationships with our families and children from the very start of their Early Learning goals.

Please find attached the consultation document regarding these suggested adaptations. We would value receiving your thoughts and comments regarding the proposed change to age range, which we are hoping will commence by Summer 2025, providing we receive approval from the Local Authority and the DfE.

We appreciate many families with and without children, our neighbours and current Early Years providers will have a few questions. Mrs O'Sullivan, Executive Headteacher, together with the Nursery Governors Group have put together an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) information sheet attached to this letter. We hope that this may answer some of your initial queries and share out our proposed offering.

At the end of the information, if you have further queries, please do email the school governors at eyfs@thomasbullock.dneat.org or on 01603 872828.

Kind regards,
Governing Body Nursery Committee Group and Executive Headteacher, Mrs S O'Sullivan
Nightingale Federation, Lyng CE Primary Academy

Consulting on a proposal to lower the age range for Lyng CE Primary Academy from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years from Summer 2025 to ensure the school meets the needs of local families.
Consultation period: 4 weeks from 16 December 2024 to 13 January 2025

This document sets out:

- Information about the school and trust – Lyng CE Primary Academy
- Why we are proposing to change the age-range for Lyng CE Primary Academy
- The proposal - rationale
- How you can give your views
- The timetable

The school

Lyng CE Primary Academy, 10 Wensum Rd, Lyng, Norwich NR9 5RJ

The school is half and one form entry, EYFS to Year 6, and has a Pupil Admission Number of 120. This document sets out a proposal to change the age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11.

Why are we proposing to change the age range?

Having the children's social and emotional wellbeing at the heart of our vision and values, means we aim to inspire in children a fascination about the world, their environment, and their sense of themselves as the unique child. We recognise children do not always enter into our reception class with these skills and we believe that by children joining our EYFS at a younger age we can build these in readiness for their learning journey.

By Lyng offering a school-based Nursery provision for local parents/carers. We can offer improved wrap-around care, improved hours, and outstanding qualified teachers as practitioners within a school-based setting. Overall, we will improve school readiness, offer specialist teachers and excellent facilities notwithstanding excellent relations with the Church and Support from the Diocese of Norwich Education Academies Trust.

Additionally, our Ofsted registered onsite breakfast and after school club, is registered to offer wraparound care to our parents, and this would be supported by our own support staff. This care would be from 7:45am to 6:00pm- in the first instance, offering wraparound care, at Lyng CE Primary for pupils from age 3-11. This will greatly support families, as older siblings will be in the same setting for drop-off and collection, saving time and aiding in smoother transitions at the beginning and end of the day.

We also believe that all our children will benefit greatly from the experience of socialising and developing relationships with even younger children. We aim to include our Nursery not only in our daily school running, but also in key celebrations, worship-based opportunities, performances, and events from across the school. Our key value of responsibility will be developed by the older children as they act as role models and as nurturing peers to our youngest pupils.

The proposal – Rationale

Following joining DNEAT MAT in November 2022; improvements to our current outdoor and indoor provision, fantastic quality first teaching provision and excellent inspections of our EYFS by the Diocese and Trust we recognise the true value of an excellent early start and are passionate about EYFS provision for children in the pre-statutory age range. Children who attend a school-based Nursery- will access the full support of a school, a SENCO and continuous education from 3 years to

11 years, the research behind school-based Nurseries eg DFE 'Good Practice in Early Education' reiterates these benefits.

Our projections and sufficiency show that in the long-term additional EYFS provision in our school may necessarily be increased with the expansion of the housing developments in the village and we are already aware of the lack of school-led provision in the area.

The suggested nursery provision will run for 38 weeks per year, in line with school's academic term times. However, our wraparound care will offer additional holiday sessional weeks out of term-time. Funded sessions are proposed to run from 8:45am to 11:45pm and 12:15 to 3:15pm. An optional lunchtime will be available from 11:45am to 12:15pm for no additional cost- for those attending all

day. The school will offer 15-hours and 30-hours per week funded Early Education for 3- and 4-year-olds and we will look to offer Nursery for 2+ once established if provision is required. To support our families and other providers, we will look to offer appropriate split-funded spaces for pupils eligible for funded-hours as well.

We will continue to maintain the strong working relationship, working together in partnership with other local providers and the local Montessori Pre-School Playgroup. We understand that a school-based setting offers a different academic and transitioning start to a Montessori setting and feel we will complement this offer for families looking for school-based Nurseries. Currently, the nearest school-based Nursery is 4 miles away in another rural village.

Currently our SENCO and teachers attend the settings for transitioning meetings, and we will look to invite the providers in to support transitioning for their pupils as well. This is our aim not only for our current school starters but will also be for our nursery starters.

At Lyng CE Primary Academy, we believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life, and support to fulfil their potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. At Lyng, our expansive outdoor and creative learning environments develop inquisitive minds to engage in early reading and number skills alongside excellent outdoor creative learning. With our community and Trust support we have specialist qualified teachers for Physical Education, Music, Expressive Arts and Forest Schools, which the children in our nursery will benefit from weekly. From September we began to invite parents and nursery aged children into our school to take part in complimentary qualified teacher led sessions and workshops ahead of our full opening of our nursery class- these 'stay and play' sessions are proving to be successful and will be expanded upon in 2025.

We are therefore eager to extend our community with the addition of a nursery to offer a secure, safe, and happy setting, which will provide the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities, offer provocations which will stimulate thought, curiosity and exploration of their interests and support them to become independent and inquisitive learners.

Do the Governors and staff support the proposal?

The Governing Committee, The Diocese of Norwich Education Academy Trust and staff support the proposal as they believe the school community would benefit from lowering the entry age of pupils to include a nursery.

How many children will the nursery take?

We will accommodate a maximum of 15 children per session; however, we will be, dependent upon construction times and location in the first instance. In Summer we will start with no more than 10 pupils in any one session, and we already have an organised EYFS space which accommodates this.

Transport

Lyng is set in a village location, where some of our families are isolated and rely heavily on public transport. We already have a transport service for ages 4-11, which we hope to be able to extend to our nursery families to ease the added pressure of travel if this can be offered by our coach service.

Carparking

We are fortunate to have enough car-parking on-site to accommodate an increased number of pupils being dropped-off at any one point. Taking into consideration our neighbours and the local community our session times proposed match our current schooling hours, therefore there will not be increased traffic at times outside of the current schooling day.

Early Identification of needs and Support

One of the biggest benefits to our nursery provision offer, is our ability to offer early support and identify needs, including Speech and Language and social skills. By identifying, reducing, or removing barriers to learning and providing support to our pupils and families at the earliest opportunity, we would be able to improve the outcomes for pupils at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage and give them the best start possible for Key Stage 1.

We have an excellent qualified SENCO, access to Local and Trust support, a weekly councillor/behavioural therapist in attendance, ELSA trained staff and 3 qualified Speech and Language specialists in our primary school. We run three different Speech and Language programmes to ensure the best possible support for individual children's needs and have been a part of the Nuffield Early Language Programme through the DFE.

All of our Qualified Teachers, Higher Level Teaching Assistants and Teaching Assistant's in EYFS are trained in Read Write Inc One to One Phonics and Letters and Sounds Phonics. All support staff have at least Level 3 EYFS Qualification or an EYFS Degree Specialism and work alongside our Postgraduate-level EYFS specialist qualified teachers.

Forest Schools and SEMH

Alongside our learning support staff we have qualified staff who are L3 forest-school teachers as well. Our school benefits from a school growing farm, pond and forest area. We have weekly specialist forest schools' lessons, and our Nursery will benefit from this too. Taking excellent education research from Scandinavia we believe learning through the outdoors develops fine motor, communication/ socialisation and supports children in developing a love of life-long learning.

Qualified EYFS Specialists

Having opened an incredibly successful Nursery age 2+ within our Federation and with an EYFS leader across the Federation means that we can share good practice and expertise with the other nursery settings within the DNEAT MAT, offering school-to-school support, Local Authority Support and our staff are at the cutting edge of continuous development practice in EYFS.

Our EYFS Leader is also and Learning Centre Leader for the Trust and qualified NPQEYSL, National Professional Qualification Early Years Senior Leader. An expert in her field she has built an excellent team of EYFS professionals and ensures improving and excellent outcomes for pupils.

What happens after the consultation?

All the feedback we receive will be collated and reported to the Head Teacher, Governors and Trustees of the school, the MAT and local council, who will decide whether to go ahead with the change of category age range of the school. If the proposal is agreed, the school will implement the change.

How can you give your views?

We have tried to answer the questions that we feel may arise. If you have any further queries or comments please email them to eyfs@thomasbullock.dneat.org ensuring we receive these on or before midday on 12 December 2024 or phone 01603 872828

| Timetable Event | When |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Start of consultation | 12 December 2024 |
| Deadline for feedback and comments | 13 January 2025 |
| Publication of proposal (1day) | 13 December 2024 |
| Representations (4 weeks) | 12 January 2025 |
| End of representation period | 10 th January however representation period until 13 January 2025 at 12pm |
| Decision on proposal | TBC |
| Implementation (if agreed) | Summer 2025 (no later than September 2025) |