

Locks Heath consultation questions and response from school

1. Objectives, including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice?

Children experiencing the same educational approach and family friendly ethos from the age of 2+ up to 11 is an advantage of having the provision in place on the site of the Infant and Junior School. This itself, could increase the educational standards and life chances of the children attending the provision. The school does have a significant amount of experience and expertise that would be able to support the learning journeys of the children as part of their Early Years Foundation Stage development. The school does have a significant amount of experience and expertise that would be able to support the learning at this age range. Parents of children who attend the new nursery provision may wish for this to continue at the Infant School but would obviously have to apply for a place as part of Hampshire County Council's normal admission's process.

2. Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?:

With regards Hampshire County Council's predicted shortfall in 2+ age nursery and pre-school places locally for September 2025 (75 places), the proposed places of a minimum of 21 at the new provision will not completely meet this need therefore being unlikely to impact any other pre-school, nursery or child minder provision negatively. The leadership team at Locks Heath Infant School cannot foresee any reasons why any other schools, academies or educational establishments would be negatively impacted by this development.

3. Will the proposed change impact travel and accessibility.

Locks Heath Infant School was a 4 form entry infant school very recently and functioned well with regards travel and accessibility to the site. Although not back up to having 360 children on site (being 3 form entry at 270 from September 2025 onwards), the increased traffic on the school site will be minimal compared to the 4 form entry previously experiences at the school. The opening times of the nursery provision are also staggered to that of the Infant School thus reducing the potential impact.

4. Evidence of demand:

All of this is included in the proposal in terms of market research

5. What are the planned operating hours?

9am to 3pm

6. Will the preschool be term-time or 51 weeks?

As things stand, the pre-school will run in line with the Infant School term time dates.

7. If term-time, what provision will be available for the school holidays?

As things stand, there is no planned provision for school holidays. Once established, this is something that the leadership team and governing body of the school can consider.

8. What provision will be available for outside play?

Without creating any more outside space, there is sufficient space available for there to be a dedicated outside space for this provision. The school also have access to a Nature Reserve onsite which can and will be utilised as additional outside space, when possible, practical and appropriate.