

**Notice of consultation on the proposal to change the age range of  
St Richard's VC Academy, St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust**

**Background:**

The Department for Education has opened an application round for the School Based Nursery capital grant 2025 to 2026 for schools wishing to create or expand nursery provision by using surplus space in primary-phase school buildings.

The grant funding forms part of a wider strategy to increase local access to affordable, high-quality childcare and recognises the positive impact this has on early child development, support for working families and the impact on the local economy.

This is the second phase of the School Based Nursery programme which builds on the foundations of Phase 1 and has an increased focus on supporting families in disadvantaged areas to access early years provision.

**St Richard's VC Academy Proposal:**

St Richard's VC Academy, part of St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust and the Local Authority, proposes to develop a provision for 2-year-old children within the existing school building. To develop this provision, St Richard's VC Academy is consulting to change the age range from 3-11 to 2-11 years of age.

The purpose of this consultation is to provide information about the proposal and to seek the views of parents and the wider community.

St Richard's VC Academy provides early years provision through our Foundation Stage for 3 to 5-year-old children. Through the proposed expansion we are seeking to provide a nursery provision with 10 places for 2-year-old children, which is available to families for 50 weeks of the year. Places will be available for children eligible for 15 or 30 hours of free early education, or for those families who wish to pay for this.

Our proposal is to re-model and refurbish surplus space within the existing school building to provide a high-quality indoor and outdoor learning environment, designed by experts within St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust. The provision will ensure children enjoy a safe, exciting, and nurturing space to grow and develop.

The expansion of our existing early education offer will enable parents to access year-round, high-quality provision for their children within their locality. This in turn will support their development and readiness for school.

**How to respond:**

You are invited to submit comments about the proposal within the consultation period of 3 weeks using the link or QR code provided below.

The consultation will open between the dates of **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025** inclusive, via the link/QR code below.

Following the consultation period the St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust will consider all responses and take these into account.

**PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE THROUGH THIS FORM AND NOT TO THE HEADTEACHER OF THE SCHOOL DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD.**

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/siJwQ8v1fn>

**St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic  
Academy Trust - consultation on  
changing the age range 2025**

