



Public consultation

Proposed change of age range (from 4-11 to 3-11) at Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

January 2026

This document contains information that will help you understand the issues surrounding this proposed change. We are happy to host an informal drop-in session to explain the proposal and to answer questions. Please contact the school office if you feel this would be of benefit.

Dear Parents, Carers and Stakeholders,

Consultation on proposed change of age range at Sytchampton Endowed Primary School.

This document explains:

- Why we feel it is appropriate to consider this change of age range
- The timescale for the consultation
- Who is being consulted
- What happens at the end of the consultation period

Have your say

It is very important that all those involved have a say. A copy of the response form can be downloaded from the school website or a hard copy picked up from the school office.

Responses must be submitted to:

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School
Stourport on Severn
Worcestershire
DY13 9SX

Or e-mail to: head@sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk

Responses must be received by noon on 2nd February 2026

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Templeton
Headteacher
Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

Responses required by Monday 2nd February 2026

Background information

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to secure, as far as is reasonably possible, early years education provision that is of good quality, accessible, flexible, inclusive and provided through a range of settings to meet parental demand for childcare for children aged three and four.

Since the 2006 Childcare Act, families with three-and four-year old children in England are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Good quality early years provision is intended to support child development and school readiness. As a school we want to be able to support our youngest children to be well prepared for starting Reception by offering a limited number of pre-school places. In order to do this, we are proposing to change the age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11. Official changes of age range require public consultation.

The Proposal

We are proposing to offer a limited number of pre-school places as part of a mixed Early Years (Pre-School and Reception) class.

This proposal would enable the school to continue to improve the quality of its Early Year provision following our successful OFSTED inspection in June 2025. Children would be able to start in the new Early Years class from after their third birthday. We believe that this offer will complement our existing provision, utilising the space, staffing and resources we already have.

We are aware of the other local childcare providers in the area and believe we are offering a different service. Our proposal is for term time only places during the school day. We are not offering wrap-around or holiday club services and we are not proposing to open to children under the age of 3. This makes our proposal distinctly different from other local offers.

Evidence of Demand

Governors have been part of the consideration of this change, discussing and voting positively **for** the proposal. Informal conversations with parents have indicated that such a change would be received positively, and prospective parents have said that our lack of pre-school provision for younger siblings is a factor that goes against them putting our school as their first choice. Our Reception classes have been small recently and this trend looks likely to continue. Offering a pre-school provision is another positive thing we can offer to families considering our school which will support the school's long term sustainability. The local authority sufficiency report indicates that although there is sufficient provision in the area, the percentage of families currently taking up their allocated funding is low, meaning that there are children who are not currently accessing any provision in the local area.

Accommodation Required

No additional accommodation is required to support this change as the existing classroom will be used. The building currently meets the statutory space requirements within the Early Years Framework, and has space for up to 23 children (up to 15 in Reception and up to 8 in Pre-School).

How the decision will be made

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Governors will consider any issues that have been raised before deciding whether to proceed with the proposal.

The Governing Body will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

- The response to the public consultation
- The quality of education provision at the school
- The ability of the school to manage the proposed change to support the continued improvements at the school
- Demand for places at the school and in the local area

Who is being consulted?

This document will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the school
- Staff and Governors of other local schools
- Local District Councillor(s)
- The Local Authority
- Immediate neighbours
- Any other local stakeholder

What happens next?

Consultation Phase – Monday 12th January – Monday 2nd February 2026

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the options expressed in this document. This document and the meeting detailed on the cover form part of the consultation.

Full Governing Body Decision – Tuesday 10th February 2026

The governors will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period, a decision will be made whether agree to proceed with the proposal.

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by noon on Monday 2nd February by completing the online response form available on the school website www.sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk and WCC website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations. If you are unable to access the online response form you can obtain a paper copy from the school office.