



## Consultation

# Heelands School – Proposed change of age range

This consultation, running from **Friday 26 June 2026 to Friday 10 July 2026**, seeks views on a proposal to change the age range at Heelands School from **4 to 7 years to 9 months to 7 years**, through the establishment of school-based nursery provision.

## Background

Heelands School is an infant school within The Blue Sky Federation, serving the Heelands area of Milton Keynes and currently providing education for children aged 4 to 7.

The school has a strong track record of supporting early development and works closely with families and the local community. As part of the Federation's strategic vision, Heelands is well placed to expand its provision to include younger children and provide a continuous early years offer.

## Why is this change being proposed?

The Government has expanded early education and childcare entitlements, enabling eligible working parents to access funded provision for children **from 9 months old up to school age**.

This proposal aims to:

- respond to increased demand for **high-quality, school-based early years places**
- support **local sufficiency of provision**, particularly for younger children
- build on the work already undertaken by Heelands and the Federation to develop a **coherent early years pathway**

Local intelligence, previous discussions, and early engagement indicate a growing need for **flexible, accessible childcare provision** in the Heelands/Bradwell area, particularly for children under 2.

Currently, Heelands School is unable to admit children below age 4 without formally changing its age range.

## What is being proposed?

If approved, the school would:

- lower its age range to **9 months to 7 years**
- establish a **school-based nursery provision** on site
- introduce provision in phases, starting with 2-year-olds and expanding where viable to younger children
- work toward offering **9 months–4 years provision** aligned with early education entitlements

## Benefits of the proposal

The school and governing body believe this proposal would:

- improve **access to high-quality early education and childcare**
- support **working families** by providing more local childcare options
- provide a **seamless educational journey** from infancy through Key Stage 1
- support **earlier identification of additional needs**, improving outcomes
- strengthen **community engagement and family support**
- contribute to **financial sustainability and long-term viability** of the school
- support Milton Keynes City Council in meeting its **statutory sufficiency duty**

## Admissions and organisation

- Admissions to nursery provision would be managed by the school
- A **separate application** would still be required through Milton Keynes City Council for a Reception place
- Provision would be developed in line with **Ofsted registration requirements** and statutory guidance

## Capital and facilities

Subject to approval:

- internal and external adaptations will be undertaken to create appropriate facilities for younger children
- works will ensure compliance with **early years safeguarding and welfare requirements**
- funding will be sought through **SBN Phase 3 and/or school/federation capital resources**

## What are the next steps?

We are keen to hear from all stakeholders.

You can respond by:

- completing the **online survey/form**

[Blue Sky Federation – Consultation on Nursery Provision \(Heelands & Summerfield Schools\) – Fill in form](#)

- emailing: **SBNconsultation@tbsf.org.uk**

**Closing date: Friday 10 July 2026**

Following the consultation:

- responses will be reviewed by the governing body and Milton Keynes City Council
- a final decision will be made on whether to proceed
- subject to approval, implementation would begin from **2026/27 onwards**

## Who is being consulted?

- Parents and carers of pupils
- School staff and governors
- Local schools
- Early years providers
- Milton Keynes City Council
- Local councillors and MPs
- The wider community