



Harold Court Primary
School



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Consultation on the Proposed Establishment of a Nursery Provision at Harold Court Primary School



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Section 1: Introduction

Harold Court Primary School is seeking to open a 30 place Nursery Provision for 3 - 4 year olds and this consultation sets out the plan to implement this proposal. In order to establish a Nursery, it is necessary for the school to change the age range for which the school can cater for, from 4-11 years old to 2-11 years old.

This is an exciting opportunity that would enable the school to provide Early Education and Childcare places to children aged 3 and 4 years old prior to their entry to school.

The purpose of this consultation is to provide information about our proposal and seek the views of Harold Court families and the wider community.

For several years, Harold Court Primary School has leased part of its space to Aardvark Day Nursery and Pre-School, an independently managed setting that accommodated up to 28 children at a time. Following its closure, this has led to a shortfall in available places in the area. This presents a valuable opportunity for Harold Court Primary School to establish its own Nursery Provision, making full use of existing space while leveraging its expertise in Early Years Foundation Stage education.

The proposed Nursery Provision will be based where the previous Day Nursery was situated adjacent to the school. The old Children Centre building will be demolished and replaced by a modular unit for the Nursery Provision.

The curriculum, planning, provision and pupils' progress will be overseen and line-managed by the school's Senior Leadership Team.

It is proposed that the Harold Court Nursery would open in September 2025.

Section 2: Consultation Process

The consultation process covered by this report ran from 24 February 2025 to 24 March 2025. The objective was to inform and gather views regarding the proposal from key stakeholders, particularly parents/carers of pupils and staff at both Harold Court Primary School, the school's governing bodies and other schools within the borough.

An electronic copy information booklet about the consultation proposal, process and a feedback questionnaire was made available as part of the online consultation feedback, published via Citizen Space, the Local Authorities dedicated consultation system. Emails informing key stakeholders which included the link to the online consultation were circulated to as many stakeholders as possible including all the borough schools, special schools, ward members, MPs, Church Diocesan representatives, all Early Year's provisions and unions; all were encouraged to respond online via Havering Citizen Space or by sending an email to the school on any specific questions on the proposal. *Appendix 1* contains a full list of the stakeholders who were emailed, notifying them of this consultation.

A notice of the consultation exercise together with the consultation document was also posted on Harold Court Primary School website throughout the consultation period.

Section 3: Consultation Response

This section of the report summarises the responses received from the consultation questionnaire. The questionnaire provided an opportunity for consultees to respond to specific questions regarding the proposal as well as allowing for general comments.

In total, **151** responses were received electronically. The categories of the respondents, according to the role they defined themselves as on the questionnaire, are shown below;

Questions 1: Are You?

| Option | Total | Percent |
|--|-------|---------|
| A parent/carer of a pupil at Harold Court Primary School | 86 | 56.95% |
| A parent/carer of a pupil at another School | 12 | 7.94% |
| Teacher/other staff at Harold Court Primary School | 20 | 13.25% |
| Teacher/other staff in another school | 5 | 3.31% |
| Governor at Harold Court Primary School | 5 | 3.31% |
| Governor at another school | 2 | 1.32% |
| Local resident | 11 | 7.28% |
| Early Years Provider | 6 | 3.97% |
| Other | 4 | 2.65% |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0% |

Question 2: Do you support our proposal to establish a Nursery at Harold Court Primary School?

151 responses were received in respect of the proposed Nursery, of this:

- 96.69% were in favour of the proposal (146 respondents)
- 3.31% were not in favour of the proposal (5 respondents)

The table below shows the responses for and against received for each category of respondent.

| Respondent | No | Yes |
|--|----|-----|
| A parent/carer of a pupil at Harold Court Primary School | 2 | 84 |
| A parent/carer of a pupil at another School | | 12 |
| Teacher/other staff at Harold Court Primary School | | 20 |
| Teacher/other staff in another school | | 5 |
| Governor at Harold Court Primary School | | 5 |
| Governor at another school | | 2 |
| Local resident | | 11 |
| Early Years Provider | 3 | 3 |
| Other | | 4 |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0 |

Please state why you support/do not support the proposal:

There were **103** responses to this part of the question.

Respondents were invited to comment or raise questions for or against the Nursery establishment proposal.

Some of the comments received in support of the proposal cited the following reasons:

| |
|--|
| It is great for parents who have children at the school to take them to one place (which are next to each other - the school and nursery). I would definitely love to send my youngest to the nursery as I already have two children at the school. |
| Makes good sense |
| Will be a great addition to Harold Court! |
| Shortage of childcare for young children and to help with transition to school. |
| Wonderful opportunity to have Early Years Education and School settings in one place. |
| There is very little nursery provision in Harold Wood and the surrounding areas. When we tried to get our Son into Aardvarks Preschool and Nursery at 9 months, there was no space for him and we had to use a childminder instead. He did eventually go at age 3 for preschool, but by opening the space as a preschool it would alleviate pressure elsewhere at other nurseries, as well as providing more jobs in the local area. |
| I support the school decision to open the nursery as I believe it will help the community. |

It would help a lot with parents of children already attend the school and that have small children that will be the age to go to nursery next year. Plus it enhances the child's development to join nursery between age of 3-4 years.

Great plan for the school to grow.

This will be a great provision for families that have children at Harold Court Primary School that require Nursery care for their younger children. I used Aardvark for my Daughter when it was located next to the School when my son went to Harold Court Primary and it was extremely convenient.

We need a nursery as part of the school as soon as possible! I'm currently rushing to get my youngest from pre-school in order to pick up my child from Harold court on time. There is no nursery that is a close to the school.

I believe it will contribute to understanding our children more, and enabling a smoother transition for our children. Where children start at this school as well-below age related, it will allow school staff to ensure that children have the relevant tools for when they start Reception.

I believe it will be great, this is because the school will be able to offer support to families and children from a very early point.

Good opportunity for young children to be supported on their way into education and having the school next door, they can see what goes on and have the opportunity to visit the school before they proceed up to this level.

Needed in the area as both a Governor and a parent at the school

It is an excellent idea as the old nursery has closed down, leading to a shortage of spaces locally. Children starting at the primary school will already know other children from the nursery which helps with their social development, and jobs will be created for people to staff the nursery.

This is an outstanding opportunity and will be a crucial addition to many children's learning pathway in a controlled and safe environment.

At Harold Court we are friendly and compassionate and always welcome everyone with a smile. To have a nursery provision at Harold Court Primary School would help establish and build relationships between families and our school ahead of their children's formal education and would offer convenience for parents and carers with other children already attending our school. The children would also be a huge part of the rest of the school's diary and daily routine. This would happen by attending assemblies, concerts within the school premises, for example - Christmas concerts, Easter concerts, and watching the Year 6's Spectacular end of the year show. The children will eat in the main school dining hall where all the rest of the school have their lunch. They would also have the use of our large field for their own sports day, attend the Mother's Day afternoon teas, Father's day events and many more, including the Christmas Fayre and Summer Fayre. Our PTA have so many events as well as the exciting events run within school.

Best way to ensure 60 children enter reception year each year.

I do support the proposal to establish a nursery because it will benefit the community. It will provide the children with activities and resources. It will build their social skills, confidence and get them familiar with a sense of routine ready for transition into primary school. I believe it will positively impact parent/carers as it's providing a safe and nurturing environment for their children whilst they work and many nursery age children will have siblings that attend Harold Court Primary School.

because I think every school need a nursery now, and helps keeps the numbers up for the school with guaranteed children coming into the school. also parents are more inclined to choose a school with a nursery attached.

I do support nursery provision. I support the expansion of provision in Havering to deal with increased demand. I would be seeking a guarantee that qualified teachers will be leading the provision, who are paid in line with the STPCD (School Teachers Pay and Conditions document) and will be subject to the Burgandy book (Conditions of Service).

I would not support this proposal if TA's are used to lead teaching and learning in classrooms. TA's should only be used in a support role.

The local community needs the facility and it enables people to return to the workplace, this enabling economic growth

Early Years provision is so important to helping the development of children especially if there are additional needs and early support can be provided.

The space is already there not being used. Plus it will give children who attend the nursery a smoother transition into reception.

Issues, comments and questions received against the proposal are as shown in the table below with the Local Authority's / School response to the issues / concerns:

| Questions and Comments | Local Authority / School response |
|---|---|
| <p>The facilities are not satisfactory size to cater for the requirements otherwise the original nursery would not have felt the need to move. There are no outside facilities other than utilising the school playground.</p> | <p>In the consultation document we stated that the 'proposed Nursery Provision will be based where the previous Day Nursery was situated adjacent to the school. The old Children Centre building will be demolished and replaced by a modular unit for the Nursery Provision.' There is going to be a future consultation on the plans and design of this Nursery Provision, concerns over the new facilities, build, and design should be raised during that consultation.</p> <p>The school playground, although shared, offers a safe and supervised outdoor space for children to play and engage in physical activities.</p> |
| <p>There is a lot of Early Years provisions in the area that are already struggling with not enough children on their books. This will take children from current provisions causing the likelihood of closures for them.</p> | <p>While it's true that some existing Early Years provisions may face challenges with enrolment, at Havering we are committed to assisting those provisions with increasing their popularity and have outreach support on offer from our Early Years Team.</p> <p>For several years, Harold Court Primary School has leased part of its space to Aardvark Day Nursery and Pre-School, an independently managed setting that accommodated up to 28 children at a time. Following its closure, this has led to a shortfall in available places in the area.</p> <p>In the Department for Education's Local Authority Readiness Analytical output for Havering September 2024, the DfE are projecting a shortfall of 342 Early Year's places within the borough in September 2025 due the Government's Early Years Expanded Entitlement, allowing more children access to Early Year Provision. So, Havering needs to prepare and create 342 more places that we currently offer and this proposed nursery provision forms part of that plan.</p> <p>Different families have varying needs and preferences. New provisions can offer more options, ensuring that all families find suitable care and education for their children.</p> |
| <p>I feel a support unit/ additional learning area for primary age children on role would be a better use for the space. Aardvark nursery has relocated to a larger premises very close by and there are two preschools in Harold Wood.</p> | <p>In the consultation document we stated that the 'proposed Nursery Provision will be based where the previous Day Nursery was situated adjacent to the school. The old Children Centre building will be demolished and replaced by a modular unit for the Nursery Provision.' There is going to be a future consultation on the plans and design of this Nursery Provision, concerns over the new facilities, build, and design should be raised during that consultation.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>The school playground, although shared, offers a safe and supervised outdoor space for children to play and engage in physical activities. The relocation of Aardvark nursery has led to a deficit of Early years places in Harold Wood ward. Additional places need to be created to meet parental demand.</p> |
| <p>Early year providers are underfunded, and having more settings accessing funding increases the amount current settings will receive. There are sufficient spaces available for 3-4-year-olds in settings already established and these settings should be supported to fill spaces rather than opening more settings.</p> | <p>While it's true that some existing Early Years provisions may face challenges with enrolment, at Havering we are committed to assisting those provisions with increasing their popularity and have outreach support on offer from our Early Years Team.</p> <p>For several years, Harold Court Primary School has leased part of its space to Aardvark Day Nursery and Pre-School, an independently managed setting that accommodated up to 28 children at a time. Following its closure, this has led to a shortfall in available places in the area.</p> <p>In the Department for Education's Local Authority Readiness Analytical output for Havering September 2024, the DfE are projecting a shortfall of 342 Early Year's places within the borough in September 2025 due the Government's Early Years Expanded Entitlement, allowing more children access to Early Year Provision. So, Havering needs to prepare and create 342 more places that we currently offer and this proposed nursery provision forms part of that plan.</p> <p>Different families have varying needs and preferences. New provisions can offer more options, ensuring that all families find suitable care and education for their children.</p> |
| <p>Taking away business from independent nurseries.</p> | <p>While it's true that some existing Early Years provisions may face challenges with enrolment, at Havering we are committed to assisting those provisions with increasing their popularity and have outreach support on offer from our Early Years Team.</p> <p>For several years, Harold Court Primary School has leased part of its space to Aardvark Day Nursery and Pre-School, an independently managed setting that accommodated up to 28 children at a time. Following its closure, this has led to a shortfall in available places in the area.</p> <p>In the Department for Education's Local Authority Readiness Analytical output for Havering September 2024, the DfE are projecting a shortfall of 342 Early Year's places within the borough in September 2025 due the Government's Early Years Expanded Entitlement, allowing more children access to Early Year Provision. So, Havering needs to prepare and create 342 more places that we currently offer and this proposed nursery provision forms part of that plan.</p> <p>Different families have varying needs and preferences. New provisions can offer more options, ensuring that all families find suitable care and education for their children.</p> |

Question 3: Do you have any other comments in respect of this proposal?

33 responses were submitted in respect of this question, some of the comments are as detailed below:

| |
|--|
| No |
| It would be better to use the facilities either for SEND support or classes or indeed as a library. |
| Would like breakfast club and after school club to be an option for pre-school pupils |
| What is the cost. Will government 30 hours be useable |
| Definitely should happened. |
| There is more than enough provisions in the area for Early years without a new one and taking from businesses already in the area. |
| That if this had been available sooner i would have sent my children too it |
| I fully support this. |
| Valuable addition to the existing school |
| Very good direction to expand educational establishments in the community |
| The building itself needs to be razed to the ground. It is clear there is damp on many of the brick areas. The current building does not look inviting. If there is to be a significant investment in this exciting project, then please do the thing properly! A patch-up approach will not attract parents to bring their children to a shabby looking building. The area available is not insignificant but the building itself is not the best use of space. It might be necessary to use some of the space at the bottom end of the infant playground to allow children in the nursery a better space in which to play. |
| To start the nursery from less than 3 years old. |
| Would outside of school hours be offered, such as breakfast club and after school club? To support those who want their children to attend Harold Court but are working families. |
| The children who attended Aardvarks and had siblings in our school, loved to watch the older siblings playing and meeting their friends during break times. Being a part of a whole school community would be more beneficial for the young children as they would have the interaction, fun and excitement knowing they are a part of the school and not an outsider looking in. |
| Establishing this nursery will also benefit the community by providing employment opportunities and will help to grow the UK economy. |
| It's a good idea |
| "Questions I would raise- Are you looking to support rising 3's? Are you going to provide options for both 15-hour and 30-hour provision? Will there be wrap around childcare available for working families? |
| I hope it goes through and has the full backing of the council and sure it will have of the residents of the local and surrounding area |
| It's essential that the current dwelling on site is completely redeveloped as it stands it is not for purpose. |
| My only concern would be the additional parents driving to the school making the road busy |
| I am in support as it would benefit my family a lot |

Very welcome proposal. After the move of aardvark nursery there is a notable challenge in nursery availability that supports parents that have children in school and nursery age children.

Section 4: Conclusion and Next steps

In Summary, the issues raised will be addressed and there is no compelling evidence for the Harold Court Primary School not to proceed to the next stage of the process. Harold Court Primary School is a LA Maintained school, therefore the final decision as to whether this proposal is approved for implementation will be made by the Local Authority.

Thank you to all parents, staff, residents and families who have responded and taken time to submit the feedback questionnaire.

Section 5: Survey Demographics

As part of our approach in ensuring a best assessment of the impact of our proposed activity and that we are hearing from a wide cross-section of our stakeholder, the consultation questionnaire included additional questions to capture this information.

This information is as follows:

Question 4: I am happy to answer equalities questions

| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 124 | 82.12% |
| No | 27 | 17.88% |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0.00% |

Question 5: How are old you?

| Option | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Under 18 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 18-24 | 3 | 1.99% |
| 25-34 | 27 | 17.88% |
| 35-44 | 55 | 36.42% |
| 45-54 | 28 | 18.54% |
| 55-64 | 7 | 4.64% |
| 65-74 | 1 | 0.66% |
| 75-84 | 2 | 1.32% |
| 85+ | 0 | 0.00% |
| Prefer not to say | 1 | 0.66% |
| Not Answered | 27 | 17.88% |

Question 6: How would you describe your gender identity?

| Option | Total | Percent |
|---------------------|-------|---------|
| Male | 17 | 11.26% |
| Female | 107 | 70.86% |
| Non-binary | 0 | 0.00% |
| Another description | 0 | 0.00% |
| Prefer not to say | 0 | 0.00% |
| Not Answered | 27 | 17.88% |

Question 7: Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| Bisexual | 1 | 0.66% |
| Gay or Lesbian | 1 | 0.66% |
| Straight or Heterosexual | 117 | 77.48% |
| Another description | 0 | 0.00% |
| Prefer not to say | 5 | 3.31% |
| Not Answered | 27 | 17.88% |

Question 8: What is your marital or civil partnership status?

| Option | Total | Percent |
|---------------------|-------|---------|
| Single | 18 | 11.92% |
| Married | 80 | 52.98% |
| Civil Partnership | 6 | 3.97% |
| Co-habiting | 14 | 9.27% |
| Widowed | 1 | 0.66% |
| Another description | 1 | 0.66% |
| Prefer not to say | 1 | 0.66% |
| Not Answered | 30 | 19.87% |

Option to self-describe

There was 1 response to this part of the question. The response was “Divorced”.

Question 9: Ethnic origin is not about nationality, place of birth or citizenship. It is about the group to which you perceive you belong.

Asian/Asian British

| Option | Total | Percent |
|--|-------|---------|
| Asian/Asian British - Indian | 5 | 3.31% |
| Asian/Asian British - Pakistani | 2 | 1.32% |
| Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi | 3 | 1.99% |
| Asian/Asian British - Chinese | 0 | 0.00% |
| Asian/Asian British - Other Asian background | 2 | 1.32% |
| Not Answered | 139 | 92.05% |

Black/Black British

| Option | Total | Percent |
|--|-------|---------|
| Black/Black British - African | 4 | 2.65% |
| Black/Black British - Caribbean | 3 | 1.99% |
| Black/Black British - Any other Black/African/Caribbean background | 2 | 1.32% |
| Not Answered | 142 | 94.04% |

Other ethnic group

| Option | Total | Percent |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|
| Other ethnic group - Arab | 2 | 1.32% |
| Any other ethnic group | 1 | 0.66% |
| Not Answered | 148 | 98.01% |

Prefer not to say

| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 2 | 1.32% |
| No | 149 | 98.68% |

White

| Option | Total | Percent |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|
| White - British | 78 | 51.66% |
| White - Irish | 1 | 0.66% |
| White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller | 0 | 0.00% |
| White - European | 15 | 9.93% |
| Other - White background | 6 | 3.97% |
| Not Answered | 51 | 33.77% |

Question 10: Faith, Religion or Belief

There were 120 responses to this part of the question.

| Option | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Buddhist | 0 | 0.00% |
| Christian | 55 | 36.42% |
| Hindu | 1 | 0.66% |
| Jewish | 1 | 0.66% |
| Muslim | 10 | 6.62% |
| No Religion | 43 | 28.48% |
| Sikh | 2 | 1.32% |
| Other religion | 1 | 0.66% |
| Prefer not to say | 7 | 4.64% |
| Not Answered | 31 | 20.53% |

Option to self-describe

There were 4 responses to this part of the question. These are below;

| Option | Total |
|-----------------|-------|
| Catholic | 1 |
| Roman Catholic | 1 |
| None | 1 |
| Jehovah Witness | 1 |

Question 11: Do you consider yourself to have a disability, impairment or health condition?

| Option | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 5 | 3.31% |
| No | 115 | 76.16% |
| Prefer not to say | 4 | 2.65% |
| Not Answered | 27 | 17.88% |

Disability, Impairment or Health Condition type

There were 6 responses to this part of the question.

| Option | Total | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| Sensory - e.g. mild deafness; partially sighted; blindness | 3 | 1.99% |
| Physical - e.g. wheelchair user | 0 | 0.00% |
| Mental Illness - e.g. bi-polar disorder; schizophrenia; depression | 0 | 0.00% |
| Development or Educational - e.g. autistic spectrum disorders (ASD); dyslexia and dyspraxia, neurodiversity | 0 | 0.00% |
| Learning Disability / Condition - e.g. Down's syndrome; Cerebral palsy | 0 | 0.00% |
| Long-term Illness / Health Condition - e.g. cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, stroke | 2 | 1.32% |
| Other | 1 | 0.66% |
| Not Answered | 145 | 96.03% |

Appendix 1: Consultation Stakeholder List

| Consultees |
|--|
| The governing body of Harold Court Primary School |
| Parents/carers of pupils at Harold Court Primary School |
| Teachers and other staff at Harold Court Primary School |
| The governing bodies of all maintained schools in the borough |
| Teachers and staff of all maintained primary, secondary, special schools and academies in the Borough. |
| Early Years Providers in the borough |
| Representatives of trade unions of any staff at schools who may be affected by the proposal. |
| All Havering Councillors |
| MPs whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposal or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Julia Lopez● Andrew Rosindell● Margaret Mullane |
| Neighbouring local authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● London Borough of Barking and Dagenham● London Borough of Newham● London Borough of Redbridge● Essex County Council● Thurrock Council |