

15th November 2024

Dear Parents and Colleagues,

Consultation – Nursery Age Range Change at Gulworthy Academy

With the increase in government funding for nurseries, and the need for local provision, The Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of Mrs Sterry and the school, needs to consider increasing the age range for children at Gulworthy Academy. This letter provides more detailed information about this proposal and why we believe it would be beneficial to the community and the children we serve. We would welcome your comments and views on our proposal as part of a consultation process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The mission of the school Trust is 'Flourishing Futures' and the opportunity to offer children and families the access to Nursery provision from age 2 is part of our ongoing mission. This has been the vision of Mrs Sterry and the team for some time. The Board of Trustees would need to apply to extend the school's age range to enable it to offer Nursery provision for 2- 4-year-olds.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?

The Trust would like to change the age range of Gulworthy Academy, currently 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from 1 September 2025. The proposal is to provide nursery provision to 2-year-olds – 4-year-olds from September 2025.

WHY DO WE WANT TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE?

It has been an ambition of the school to provide additional places and hours for 2–4-year-olds and many parents have also talked about this. We can draw on the expertise that sits in the nurseries across our School Trust to support Mrs Sterry and the team to set up this provision. The school would aim to establish the strongest links possible with our families from the outset, working to support them from a younger age. We would be able to support more families in finding high quality, flexible provision in the local area and offer a wider parental choice.

By providing the opportunities and experiences to nurture children's curiosity and knowledge, we will support children from 2 years old to develop the skills they need to move through their education and into the world beyond. We can provide the children with a rich, vibrant curriculum which enables them to gain knowledge and confidence to develop skills but also grow as a learner, preparing them for the next step on their journey.

Admission to the Nursery would be in accordance with the academy's admissions criteria. Two-, Three- and Four-Year-old Funding Parents can claim their 15 hours Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) per week, for up to 38 weeks of the year and working parents of three- and four-year-olds will be eligible for an additional 15 hours a week childcare which is being referred to as 30 Hours Free Childcare. The Nursery core sessions



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FLOURISHING FUTURES



are three-hour morning and afternoon sessions. Paid sessions will also be available for parents who are not eligible. Eligible Parents of two-year-olds will be able to access free childcare of up to 15 hours per week, for 38 weeks (about 8 and a half months) of the year (or an equivalent amount) from the term after their 2nd birthday. Paid sessions will also be available for parents who are not eligible.

We envisage that this change in provision will provide valuable support to the communities of both Gulworthy and Lamerton, as well as surrounding communities.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We need to gather your views to inform the decision-making process; it will run from **Monday 18th November to Monday 9th December**. Responses will be used to make a final decision as to whether to proceed with an application to extend the age range which will enable us to offer nursery spaces for 2-year-olds.

HOW DO I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN?

Your views are important, and we would value your opinions. You can send your comments by email to gulworthy@lapsw.org. The closing date for responses is **9th December 2024**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Cleverly".

Tracey Cleverly
Chief Executive Officer
For and on behalf of the Learning Academy Partnership (South West)