



Guru Nanak Sikh Academy

Proposed Nursery Places



Let us know
your
thoughts!

The directors of Guru Nanak Sikh Multi Academy Trust (GNSMAT) are currently considering adding nursery places to our provision.

Our mission at GNSMAT is to provide a happy and outward-looking school, within which all the pupils work hard to realise their full potential, intellectually, morally, physically, personally and socially in which the Sikh religion is fostered.

GNSA already has a successful Early Years Foundation Stage, and we would like to extend this provision to offer places to 3-year-olds where we can further deliver on our mission. We would love to know your thoughts on this and encourage you to return your completed questionnaire (overleaf) to the School Reception or complete our online survey at:

<https://forms.gle/7moTLVxuFV2MHpUh9>

Consultation on extending the school age range at GNSA to include provision for three-year-old children

The Current Position

Guru Nanak Sikh Academy (GNSA) currently provides education for children from 4-18 years. We are a fully inclusive school committed to providing an excellent education for young people, and instilling a love of learning.

We have been made aware that many of our parents would like our school to offer nursery places and the Directors of GNSMAT have listened to our community and developed a proposal to provide this.

The Proposal

Subject to feedback from our community, it is proposed to extend the age range of children admitted to GNSA from 4-11 to 3-11. There would be places available for 3-year-old children from Wednesday 4th September 2024.

Depending on the level of demand, we would hope to offer hours that would support working parents. Therefore, this may include hours outside of our normal/core school opening hours of 8:30 and 15:10.

We are proposing that the children would be taught in a dedicated nursery unit on site at GNSA.

The unit would be led by a full time, specialist teacher together with excellent support staff.

The Benefits

- The children would benefit from experiencing early educational activities to support their learning and development, as part of a wider school curriculum and led by a qualified teacher.
- Research has shown that where schools provide Early Years education, pupils make fast progress as they move between the early stages of learning. School staff are able to share their expertise between Early Years and Key Stage 1 and this is critical to consistent progress.
- Where children go on to attend the school, the transition would be a smooth and effective process allowing the children to settle more quickly. It would provide continuity of education and provision through a single leadership team and governing body.
- It would support parents/carers in finding high quality, flexible child care in the local area and offer a wider parental choice.

- A wider range of resources and expertise could be shared across the age range of the school. This flexibility can be particularly useful for children with special needs or vulnerabilities.
- It would provide opportunity for children to attend provision on the same site as their older siblings. This should impact positively on parents' time and logistics of using different child care provider.

Admissions

A separate admissions policy for the nursery has been drafted and we invite you to provide any feedback and/or questions on this. The draft admissions policy is available on our website here:

<https://www.gurunaksikhacademy.co.uk/primary/parentsandcommunity/admissions>

How to make your views known

We are currently consulting on the proposal outlined above and would be happy to receive your comments by email to sarah.ferguson@place-group.com or by letter to the school's address: Springfield Road, Hayes, UB4 0LT.

Alternatively, you can complete and return the attached questionnaire to the school or complete this online at: <https://forms.gle/7moTLVxuFV2MHpUh9>

All comments must be received by 9.00 a.m. on Friday 5th May 2023

FAQs

What is the purpose of this consultation?

The Directors of GNSMAT are proposing to formally lower the age range of the school from 4 -18 years to 3 -18 years in order to make new early years provision for 3 - 4-year-olds.

Currently the youngest children that the school can admit are in the reception class. In order to take younger children into the proposed new Nursery Unit, legal processes must be followed to lower the age range for the school from 4–11-year-olds, to 3 -11 year olds. The first step in this process is that the local community must be asked for their views.

Why are the governors making these proposals?

All 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours per week (and some 30 hours) of free Early Years Foundation Stage education from the beginning of the school term following their 3rd birthday until compulsory school age. This free entitlement can be taken in a school nursery, a 'foundation stage' class and/or in an Ofsted registered private and voluntary sector setting. It is parental choice as to which type of provision is most appropriate for their child and most convenient for individual circumstances.

GNSMAT is proposing to provide places for 3 - 4-year-olds as an extension of current infant class provision, by the creation of a Nursery Unit. Early Years staff would work together to provide an excellent environment for young learners' development. The Nursery Unit would have a qualified teacher to support the learning and development of the 3- and 4-year-olds.

What would 'Nursery Unit Class' provision look like?

It would be very similar to what is currently available to existing reception children in school. There would be high quality play-based provision including role-play, sand, water, construction, reading, mark making, and outside play. There will be free flow between areas, including outside, offering children the choice of activities and allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development. They will be supported by knowledgeable and appropriately trained adults.

The Nursery Unit will be situated in a purpose-built indoor space with access to appropriate outdoor play areas.

How many places will be offered?

This will depend on the demand from parents. A decision on the number of nursery places offered, as well as timings, will be made once all feedback has been received.

Which children would be eligible for a place?

Priority for admission to the Nursery Unit will be determined by a separate admissions policy. A draft of this policy is available on our website here:

<https://www.gurunaksikhacademy.co.uk/primary/parentsandcommunity/admissions>

How will the new foundation unit class affect other providers?

The new Nursery Unit would take children aged 3-4 years old. Our school has links with other local pre-school providers. They are being consulted and have the opportunity to make their views on the proposal known.

Questionnaire (also available online here: <https://forms.gle/7moTLVxuFV2MHpUh9>)

1. I am:

- A parent/carer of a child at GNSA
- A parent/carer of a child at another school
- Member of staff at GNSA
- Member of staff at another school/nursery
- Member of the community
- Local childcare provider
- Local Authority Representative

Other (please specify):

2. Do you support the addition of nursery places at GNSA from September 2024 which will mean that the school's age range is extended from 4-11 to 3-11?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

3. Do you support the proposed admissions policy for the nursery? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Following questions for parents and carers only

4. Would you be interested in a nursery place at GNSA?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

5. If yes, what kind of nursery provision would you be interested in?

Term time only

Morning session only

Afternoon session only

7.30am – 9.00am

9.00am – 4.00pm

4.00pm – 6.00pm

Other (please specify):

6. If the new nursery were to offer full and wraparound (outside of school hours) provision, would you be prepared to pay costs incurred for additional hours of childcare above the free entitlement of 15 or 30 hours?

Yes

No

Not sure

Comments:

7. If you were successful in securing a place in the new nursery for your child, how would you travel to the nursery?

Car

Public transport

Walk

Cycle

Scooter

Other (please specify):

Thank you for your feedback!