

# TOWER HAMLETS CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Stepney Greencoat CE Primary School - Proposal to expand to include a permanent nursery public consultation response



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Sufficiency  
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## 1. Introduction

Tower Hamlets consulted on the proposal to expand to include a permanent 30 places nursery for 3 and 4 years olds at Stepney Greencoat CE Primary School. This is a requirement of the Department for Education's under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations (2013) to make a permanent prescribed alteration.

The proposal for consultation stated the following:

The governing body of Stepney Greencoat CE Primary School is proposing to extend the age range of the school to 3 -11 years of age, to enable the permanent establishment of a nursery provision for 3 - and 4-year-olds.

Interested parties were asked to confirm whether they supported the proposed change with reasons why. Statutory proposal documents were available for this consultation.

The consultation period ran for six weeks (three weeks during term-time) from 8 July 2024 until 19 August 2024. The consultation was conducted online, using the corporate 'Let's Talk Tower Hamlets' portal and was visited 159 times. There were a total of 29 completed and submitted responses, from the 70 who viewed the survey.

## 1. Communication

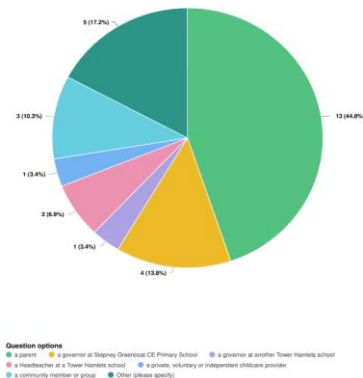
The table below includes the communication methods that were used to advertise and promote the consultation:

<b>Communication medium</b>	<b>Communication reach</b>	<b>Date actioned</b>
Let's Talk Tower Hamlets website	Local residents, businesses and staff employed by the Council	8 July 2024
School mailings, emails, social media posts	School community and local community	8 July 2024
Information placed on Local Offer website	Local residents, businesses and staff employed by the Council	12 July 2024
Posts on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn	Local residents, businesses and staff employed by the Council	11 July 2024
Email to all neighbouring local authorities seeking their views	All neighbouring local authorities	10 July 2024
Email to all PVI's seeking their views	Borough wide PVI's	17 July 2024
Direct email to members of Admissions Forum	All LA, Schools and Community representatives	10 July 2024
Head Teachers Bulletin	All head teachers employed by the local authority	12 July 2024
Members Bulletin	All elected members	12 July 2024
In person event at Stepney Greencoat CE School	School and local community members	17 July 2025
Residents Newsletter	Local residents and staff employed by the Council	15 July 2024
Statutory Notice	The Docklands & East London Advertiser	25 July 2024

### 3. Profile of respondents

#### 3.1 Role

The respondents confirmed the capacity in which they were responding.



### 4. Results analysis

4.1 Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal to extend the age range of the primary school to 3-11 years to enable the permanent establishment of a nursery provision for 3-and 4-year-olds?

28 respondents (96.6%) agreed with the proposal.

#### Respondents comments

- Positive impact for local parents wanting to choose this school.
- The pilot Nursery has received really positive feedback. So far (in the pilot phase) the benefits for existing and new families in offering Nursery (aged 3-4) provision have included: improved school readiness for entering Reception; early identified support where needed; and better options for local families who were previously forced to settle Nursery aged children into alternative provisions and then resettling them again at Stepney Greencoat for Reception class. With a permanent Nursery for 3–4-year-olds, the school team will be able to provide two years of high quality, strategic, EYFS provision for all children and families who choose to attend the school.
- We need local support and a place for families to be supported in a diverse community.
- The local children will greatly benefit from the provision and early interventions that the school would start.
- The nursery has been incredibly successful and the need in the community is there. The school provides a safe and nurturing environment and is well equipped with the adults and space to provide this for nursery children.
- Excellent care at the school. Helpful and essential to parents of children in the school already. Excellent space available.
- The school is a warm and welcoming place with great EYFS provision and it would be lovely to permanently extend this to 3- and 4-year-olds.
- It would be positive for local families to have the option of nursery at a good school nearby

- It is an extremely well-run provision and crucial for the parents that have chosen it.
- To enable siblings attend the same school and to increase the student roll into reception
- It's a great school, and the pilot nursery has been fantastic for our daughter.
- The nursery at the sister school, St Peter's in Wapping, is very successful and full of happy children. Church schools tend to have nurturing environments perfect for this age group. I would have used it myself when my children were the right age, were I fortunate enough to get a place.
- It's an excellent school and the nursery will only support intake and its general offer to all local people
- Increased access to nursery care is a good thing. It is easier for children to adjust to school if they attend nursery at the same site. Siblings can be dropped off and collected at once.
- PM I am a local resident and will benefit from sending my child to this nursery. The university nursery is closing and places are limited and expensive so increasing options is very helpful.
- A well-run school Support the necessary expansion of nursery provision in the area
- Needed in the community
- Demand has already been demonstrated through the pilot nursery, and this has already led to a full reception class for the first time in many years. Previously the school has been disadvantaged by being one of few in the area without a nursery. This will help secure the long-term viability of the school as families will have experience of the excellent school community at an earlier age, and families with older siblings will no longer have incentive to move to a school offering through-care from 3-11yo.
- There is an increase in need for nurseries across TH. This will help parents and be a great benefit to the community.
- It sounds like a truly excellent idea!
- My daughter attended the pilot nursery this year and she had such a great time that would be fantastic to extend it to other kids.
- It's a wonderful school that my 5-year-old daughter currently attends, and the proposals would really support the need for more childcare provision. I also have a two-year-old daughter who I would love to attend nursery there. There's been amazing progress at the school over the last year & it's a very supportive and inclusive environment.
- Better to have a nursery attached to mainstream
- There is local demand for an offer from this church school (as opposed to non-religious schools around it) for a nursery provision. This will save parents the upheaval of having to start children in one setting, and then having to uproot them for reception. It will also allow greater flexibility for those parents who wish to return to work to have childcare options. Additionally, it will give children in that younger age bracket the opportunity for greater socialisation and the development of other key skills ahead of reception year.
- Needed places.

One respondent disagreed and stated, "There are existing nurseries in the area to provide nursery education. The school should focus on primary education."

**4.2** Respondents were asked if the proposal would have a disproportionate adverse impact on any groups with protected characteristics. 28 respondents (96.6%) stated no they did not. 1 respondent (3.4%) stated yes

**4.3** Respondents were asked to tell the LA anything else we should know about this proposal. Six respondent provided further comments.

#### **Respondent further comments**

- School Early Years provision is set to extend due to additional government funding. The pilot Nursery has been well received and will benefit the whole school community
- I very much support Stepney Greencoat' s plan.
- The school is inclusive so on the contrary, it would benefit them all
- The school is such a lovely, beautiful community and want to strengthen relationships within the community especially with younger families by offering a nursery
- The proposal should pass!
- Schools have an unfair advantage over private nurseries. This will result in some nurseries closing down. In the long run parents and carers will have less choice and places for nursery education

#### **4.5 In person event 17 July 2024**

Stepney Greencoat CE Primary School also hosted an in-person event on Wednesday 17 July 2024. This was publicised as part of the consultation.

There were 11 in attendance, with 10 respondents, this included

- 6 parents
- 1 grandparent
- 2 parent Governors
- 1 Governor

A Local Authority Representative and Headteacher presented the proposal to attendees and answered questions. Those present were asked to complete a response form, 10 responded. The results were as follows:

- 10 respondents agreed with the proposal to extend the age range of the primary school to 3-11 years to enable the permanent establishment of a nursery provision for 3-and 4-year-olds.
- 10 stated they did not agree that the proposal would have a disproportionate adverse impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

Respondents were asked to tell the LA anything else we should know about this proposal. Nine respondent provided further comments:

### **Respondents further comments**

- Parent teachers at nearby schools would benefit by nursery option at Stepney Greencoat
- Fantastic space and set up already available. Wonderful teachers and school ethos. Incredibly helpful for parents with younger children and working parents for wraparound care. Good for whole school community.
- As Stepney Greencoat is a partner with Stepney All Saints Secondary it provides a real opportunity for SASS staff to have the opportunity to access the nursery in a school with the same values. It is also a very valuable teacher recruitment tool. The wraparound care will be really valuable for adults who need to work on. In terms of nursery provision, it is a valuable provision for families in a borough with much deprivation.
- I support the change proposed to provide a permanent nursery at Stepney Greencoat. With the increased numbers of families in LBTH this is a positive step forward.
- Great and amazing to have a nursery. So happy.
- As a parent who has a 3year old who has been part of the pilot nursery here, I can tell you that it has been of great benefit to us as a family. Our 3-year-old has developed an amazing amount since joining the nursery, in all areas. The staff are very skilled in EYFS provision, and the premises and equipment are far better than any other nurseries we have seen. We have an older child in the school too, and being able to bring them both to the same place has been incredibly helpful for us.
- Establishment of a nursery provision at Stepney Greencoat would be an immense benefit to the entire community!
- Being part of the nursery at Stepney Greencoat has really helped my soon feel prepared for Reception here in the autumn.
- I believe it would be an excellent provision for Stepney Greencoat benefitting children and families in the local area..

## **5. Summary**

A fair, open and widely publicised consultation has been carried out. Responses from parents and the community were overwhelmingly in favour of a permanent nursery provision at Stepney Greencoat CE Primary School. Parents are particularly supportive for a range of reasons, including quality of the pilot provision, need in local area and importance for working families and families of school staff.

The greatest weight should be placed on responses from those likely to be most by a proposal – parents of children at the affected school(s).