Maple Court Nursery Consultation

**Proposal** – **To open a small nursery unit at MAPLE COURT ACADEMY**To lower the age range of Maple Court Academy, from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years, from September 2022 to ensure the school meets the needs of local families, and provides an education to pupils below reception age.

The Trustees of Alpha Academies Trust & Governors of Maple Court Academy is consulting with you on the proposal to lower the admissions age of Maple Court Academy to enable us to have a nursery on our school site.
This proposal will ensure a consistent approach to learning for our youngest children, and enable us to meet some of the needs of the local community in relation to Early Years educational provision. From research carried out we believe our nursery would help provide families with school based full-time provision.

The proposed nursery would be situated in the current Ark provision (which is currently used for our younger children as a nurture provision) and has access to an outside area. It would be a small nursery unit with a maximum capacity of **30** children per session.
We appreciate many families with and without children, our neighbours, local residents and current Early Years providers will have a number of questions. Mrs Brammer, Executive Principal, together with the Steering Group and Governors have put together a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) style information sheet attached to this letter. We hope that this may answer some of your initial queries.

Consultation Timeline:

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| **Date** | **Action** |
| 15.10.21 | Decision to proceed with process for opening of nursery class. |
| 8.11.21Closes 6.12.21 | Consultation period (1 month) |
| Week Commencing 6.12.21 | Analysis of responses received during the consultationDecision on whether to proceed to publication of statutory notices |
| Week Commencing 13.12.21 | Publication of statutory notices  |
| Week commencing 13.12.21 – ending 17.1.22 | Four week representation period following publication of statutory notices |
| January 2022. | Decision on whether to proceed  |

What are the next stages in the process?
There are two sections to this consultation that we would like your opinion on:

1. Your opinions in response to the proposed Nursery and the lowering of the school age range from 3 to 11 (from 4 to11 currently)

2. A questionnaire (Survey Monkey) specifically about the nursery provision to enable use to consider possible structures and support in meeting the needs of the community.

Responses will be received throughout **the consultation period of four weeks - from Monday 8th Monday 2021 to Monday 6th December 2021.** Results will be analysed and the school will publish the outcome on its website.

**How can I respond to this consultation?**

Please complete the consultation response form and return to the school. Alternatively, please email the school at office@maplecourt.uk

To complete the questionnaire specifically about the nursery provision please follow the link

If you would like to speak to someone in person regarding the proposals, Mrs Brammer, Executive Principal or Mrs Minshall, Assistant Principal or Mr S Bradbury, Chair of Governors would be more than happy to talk with you. Please telephone the school office on 01782 970293 to arrange a convenient time.

Please note this is a currently a consultation process and no final decision upon whether a nursery will be opened, has yet been made.

Regards
The Trustees of Alpha Academies Trust & Governors of Maple Court Academy

The Maple Court Academy Nursery Consultation Response form

Proposal to lower the age range of Maple Court Academy from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years from September 2021 to ensure the school meets the needs of local families: - opening a school-based nursery.

Name (Optional)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship with the school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (For example, parent / local business.)

In my opinion- **positives** for the proposed nursery and lowering the age range of Maple Court Academy from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years from September 2021.

In my opinion – **disadvantages** for the proposed nursery and lowering the age range of Maple Court Academy from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years from September 2021.

My concerns would be:



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Proposal – To open small nursery unit at Maple Court Academy**

To lower the age range of Maple Court Academy from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years from September 2021 to ensure the school meets the needs of local families.

We know that many people will have questions regarding the proposals to lower the age range of the school to allow a nursery on site. Therefore, we have tried to answer the questions that we feel may arise. If you have anything else you would like to ask please contact Mrs Brammer, Executive Principal Executive Principal or Mrs Minshall, Assistant Principal or Mr S Bradbury Chair of Governors, alternatively you can email office@maplecourt.uk

**Why are we proposing to lower the entry age of the children joining our school?**
Supporting the government’s policy on providing 15 and 30 hours Funded Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds in schools, we propose for our school to open a nursery and provide a secure, stimulating, quality nursery provision.

**Will the proposal have any impact on the school’s admissions arrangements?**
It is proposed that we would offer 30 places, either full time (25 hours) for 3 and 4 year olds from September 2021. It would be a term time only nursery and run in the parameters of the normal school day.
It is important to note there is no automatic right for nursery aged children to gain a Reception place at Maple Court Academy. Parents of nursery aged children would need to apply in the normal way for admissions to the school. It would not change the current admissions process.

**Do the Trustees, Governors and staff support the proposal?**
The Governing Committee, The Alpha Academies Trust and staff support the proposal as they believe the school community would benefit from lowering the entry age of pupils to include a nursery.

**How many children will the nursery take?**
We would take a maximum of 30 children per session.

**Where will the nursery be based?**
The nursery will be based in the building used previously for Early Years Nurture provision. The nursery children will have access to the outside areas of the school but also a designated Early Years area.

**Will the nursery have its own secure access?**
At the beginning and end of each session, entrance to the nursery would be through the Beverley Drive entrance as per the current reception pupils.

**What do you plan to do about any extra traffic the nursery and extended schools service may cause?**
We anticipate that the majority of the children in the nursery would be siblings or very local. This combined with up to 30 children in each session would mean there would not be a large increase in additional vehicles. We would encourage and promote a ‘walk to school’ culture with the support of our local businesses.

**I have a child at Maple Court Academy will this affect their education?**
The proposed nursery would not affect the quality of education offered to Maple Court Academy children. The nursery would never run at a financial loss to the school. School facilities may be used by the nursery but never to the detriment of other school pupils.

**The Bentilee community and the surrounding area already have a nurseries and other pre-schools provision why do we need another one?**
Trustees have identified that the provision offered for pupils in a nursery within a school based nursery, will offer a continuity of education and upward trajectory of progress of EYFS pupils through the foundation stage curriculum. Comparative research indicates that the transition from Nursery to Reception, slows the progress of pupils attending from another setting. This also aids the social and emotional development of EYFS pupils through daily interaction with their reception peers.

Our nursery would be teacher led, offering 25 hour places. This builds the stamina or pupils helping them to be school ready. It means that parents who receive 30 hours funded childcare can use all 30 hours at our proposed nursery including lunchtime (9am – 3pm, 5 days a week).

**Have you considered the additional noise that a nursery would cause?**
Yes. With a maximum of 30 children per session and free-flow between inside and outside there would be limited impact. The nursery outside area would be along a boundary fence however this backs onto the school playing fields, and we anticipate no additional noise.

To support the school in developing an understanding in how to structure the demand for our provision, if your child attended a local nursery or currently at a local nursery or would consider using a nursery in the future please complete the nursery provision questionnaire, using the following link

We appreciate any feedback and thank you for taking your time to complete the consultation and if applicable the nursery provision questionnaire.