



DECISION OF CLOSURE FOR THE NURSERY AT SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Notice details

A decision has been made by Sheffield City Council Local Authority, working in partnership with the Governing Body of Springfield Primary School, to permanently close the nursery attached to Springfield Primary school.

Contact details

Springfield Primary School, Cavendish Street, Broomhall, Sheffield, S3 7RZ.

(Contact: Chair of Governors, c/o Springfield Primary School, Cavendish Street, Broomhall, Sheffield, S3 7RZ).

The decision makers for this notice are Sheffield City Council Local Authority, working in partnership with the Governing Body of Springfield Primary School.

Implementation

It has been decided to permanently close the nursery by 25th July 2025.

Reasons for Closure

There has been a reduction in the number of children taking up a place at the early year's nursery (3-4-year-old) provision at Springfield over the last 5 years, despite the best efforts of the school and its governors to improve this. The table below shows the numbers of children in the nursery from 2018/19 – 2022/23:

Academic Year	Highest number on roll in Autumn (52 places available)	Highest number on roll in Spring (52 places available)	Highest number on roll in Summer (52 places available)
2018 – 2019	18	36	39
2019 – 2020	29	33	32
2020 – 2021	16	20	27
2022 – 2022	17	20	31
2022 – 2023	14	16	15

When the nursery was open, the school budget was running at a deficit due to the decreased uptake at the nursery. Therefore, if it reopened based on these numbers, it would continue to do so. This places pressure on the whole school budget. The impact on the school budget over the last 4 years in which it was open was a deficit of £50,112. The minimum number of children needed to make the nursery financially viable would be 34.

The school had no choice but to subsidise nursery provision with Government funding (AWPU) allocated to other children across school from Reception to Year 6, which was having an impact



on the quality of the provision that the school were able to offer to their primary pupils. Closing the nursery permanently will allow the school to continue focussing on meeting the complex needs of their Reception to Year 6 pupils with increasing SEND/EAL needs, by redirecting the financial resource back to where it should be used.

Springfield's 3 Year budget plan predicts a ~£582,338 total deficit, which along with declining nursery admission numbers, led to school governors reaching a decision to work towards permanent closure of the nursery. Currently there are no projected childcare sufficiency issues in this area for 3 and 4-year-olds, with 36 other nursery and PVI settings delivering early years provision. There are surplus places across the area for 3 and 4-year-olds with a 93% take-up rate.

The number of good private provisions in the area who can offer greater flexibility in terms of age-range, opening hours and outside of term-time provision than the school nursery means that families still have access to a good Early Years place within their community for their children despite the closure of this nursery.

Through the permanent closure of the nursery, the building space can continue being used as a community hub to deliver various children and family health and social support sessions within the community. This provides a great community asset to use for community and family support in an area of high need and deprivation. Sessions being delivered include:

- Family and adult community education (family learning).
- Parent and toddler groups.
- Start Well programmes.
- Family Intervention Service and Family Hub programmes.
- Sheffield Children's NHS Services – child health workshops for continence, school nursing, and public health nurses.
- Afterschool club provision.

This space will continue to be used for the benefit of the children and community of Springfield.

Displaced Pupils

This permanent closure will not cause displacement of any pupils. This is due to the Nursery already being closed on a temporary basis since 1st September 2023 with no pupils in attendance.