

Sir Edmund Hilary Academy

Consultation on proposal to change the
age range of the academy



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Consultation proposal to change the age range of Sir Edmund Hilary Academy from September 2026

Consultation period: 03 June 2026 – 1 July 2026

Introduction

Sir Edmund Hilary Academy is proposing to make an application to the Department for Education to change its age range from 2 - 11 years to 3 - 11 years from September 2026.

As part of the consultation process and as part of the statutory requirements, we are consulting parents and carers of Sir Edmund Hilary Academy, parents in the area, the Local Authority, other local primary schools and nurseries to seek feedback regarding the proposed change. The consultation process will run from Wednesday 3 June 2026 to Wednesday 1 July 2026. L.E.A.D. Academy Trust will then consider comments received during the consultation period.

Proposal

Sir Edmund Hilary Academy currently has a pupil admission number of 60 and capacity for 420 pupils, plus 39 nursery pupils in a morning and 39 nursery pupils in an afternoon. In addition, we have provision for 15 pupils in a morning and 15 pupils in an afternoon in our 2 year old provision. We currently admit children from the term after their second birthday as part of our 2 year old provision. Under the proposed changes, we will no longer offer 2 year old provision and will only admit pupils into our nursery in the term after their third birthday and into reception as part of the normal admissions process.

Rationale

Our 2 year old provision has 15 places in a morning and 15 places in an afternoon, offering parents morning or afternoon sessions for a total of 15 hours a week, or both sessions for a total of 30 hours per week. It is open only during academy term-times.

The existing 2 year old provision does not offer the flexibility that many parents need, and the enrolment numbers have been decreasing in recent years, impacting the academy's budget.

In spring term 2026, only 2 out of 30 places are occupied, an occupancy rate of 7%. This is expected to remain the case in September 2026, with enquiries for only 2 out 30 available places.

In our local area, there are several private nurseries offering the flexibility parents require.

Nottinghamshire County Council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report 2025 indicates there were 1969 vacant 2 year old places in the County. Therefore, we do not expect an increase in demand sufficient to sustain our 2 year old provision in the future.

The academy's funding largely depends on pupil attendance. Excessive 2 year old vacancies reduce revenue while costs remain high. Adjusting the age range will ensure long-term stability and enable us to offer high-quality education.

- What do I need to do?



- If you have any questions or would like to comment on the proposal then please the contact the academy using the following methods
- In writing to D Eccles, Sir Edmund Hillary Academy, Kingsway, Worksop, Notts, S81 0AN
- or by email to office@siredmundhillaryacademy.co.uk

Following the consultation period L.E.A.D Academy Trust will consider any comments received and a decision will be made on how to proceed.