



**6 February 2023**

Consultation on a proposal to change the age range of St Buryan Academy from 2-11 years to 3-11 years/Future of 2-year-old provision

Dear stakeholders

We are consulting on a proposal to change the age range of the nursery here at St Buryan Academy. Whilst we highly value our position in the community and endeavour to meet the needs of it, we must also consider what is viable for the school and best for the children who attend the nursery.

### **Proposal**

After much consideration, it is proposed that the age range of the school changes from 2-11 years to 3-11 years, meaning that we would not offer provision for 2 year olds

### **Plan**

We would like to revert back to our previous offering with our 3 and 4-year old children working alongside our Early Years/Reception children for the reasons stated below. The 'nursery building' would then provide a space for the whole school to use and access as a learning and training hub as well as a library/arts centre. It would potentially allow us to make it available to use for the community; or should our numbers rise within our 3-4-year-old age range, it gives us the flexibility of reverting back to using it as a space for them.

### **Reasons for proposal**

- The running cost of the nursery is not financially viable currently, with very few two years olds on roll.
- The current space within the nursery building makes it challenging to provide a facility for 2-4-year-olds effectively. There is a lack of space for naps whilst aiming to provide a learning environment that meets the needs of the Early Years Framework.
- The staff ratios that are required for 2-year-olds means that there are challenges to staffing arrangements.
- The new Early Years framework and curriculum lends itself to teaching 3-4-year-olds with Reception children and therefore it makes sense to deliver that curriculum with the children together.
- As above, we would be in a position where we can provide a stronger education to those Early Years children, ensuring that they are 'school ready' and are familiar with the setting for when they enter the 'main school'.

There is a low-need for provision for 2-year-olds in the area. After consulting with Cornwall Council, projected population figures are low for the foreseeable future both in the locality and County-wide.

### **Next steps:**

During this consultation period of four weeks (6 February 2023 – 10 March 2023), stakeholders are welcome to send their views to the school through email to [head@stburyanacademy.org](mailto:head@stburyanacademy.org)

Following the consultation period, staff, the Local Academy Committee and members of our Multi-Academy Trust (Leading Edge Academies) will meet to review any views of stakeholders and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal by making a Significant Change request to the Department for Education to change the age range of the school.

Thank you for your time

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Head of School

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