



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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Harriers Banbury Academy is undertaking a consultation to expand our 3 - 4 year old Nursery provision. The proposal is to extend an existing building within the school grounds in order to offer up to 80 spaces for children (an expansion of 28 spaces) between 3 - 4 years old bringing the total school capacity to 500. The DFE currently states our capacity as 472.

Harriers Banbury Academy is a two form entry school that provides education for pupils from the ages of 3 -11. We are part of the Aspirations Academy Trust that oversees 16 academies, three of which are also part of the Banbury partnership: Dashwood Banbury Academy (primary), Wykham Park Academy and Futures Institute (secondary). The school is popular and full in nearly all year groups and has a well established Nursery provision.

Why are we proposing to expand our current 3 - 4 Year old Nursery and how will it benefit our pupils and local community?

Currently, we are at full capacity and have a waiting list. Our current 3 - 4 year old Nursery has three intakes throughout the year: September, January and April. This means that within this age group there is a vast difference developmentally between the children that join in January and April to those you joined the nursery the previous year. If we were successful in this expansion, we would be able to restructure our nursery provision to provide a more bespoke education, splitting preschool aged children from the rising 3 year olds.

What are the reasons for the proposed change?

From September 2025, the government will be extending its 30-hour additional nursery places for working parents to children from 9 months. This has created a need for additional spaces. In October 2024, the government launched an application for school based nursery grants stating the following:

"High quality early education is essential for giving every child the best start in life and transforming their life chances, enhancing their readiness for primary school and improving socio-emotional development. It is particularly beneficial for children facing additional challenges such as those from disadvantaged backgrounds. School based nurseries (SBNs) play a crucial role in the early-years sector, making up 20% of registered early years childcare places in 2023."

In order to uphold the government's vision for our young children, we feel that Harriers is in a strong position to extend its current Ofsted rated GOOD practices, that it already holds in our current Early Years setting. We know that we have excellent systems and structures in place to extend our offer to give more children the best start in life in our local community.

How would the systems and structures we currently have in place support a successful expansion?

- All statutory policies for Early Years are already in place including risk assessments, record keeping procedures and staffing ratios. These are ratified by the Aspirations Regional Board.



Our Vision: to cultivate high quality education in a supportive environment, enabling our pupils to become happy, confident individuals, ready to take on the world



- We have a highly competent Early Years team, led by an experienced Early Years lead, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience to support children with additional needs and pupils who arrive into the country with English as a second language.
- A strong, well sequenced curriculum that produces outcomes at the end of Reception that are in line or above the National Average.
- Purposeful continuous professional development (CPD) is planned, relevant and designed to develop both knowledge and skills of staff to develop best practice.
- We have a safeguarding and welfare officer who works with our families to provide mental health and welfare support as well as Early help.
- A qualified SENCo, who specialises in early identification and works with multiple agencies, ensures we have access to specialist services to support both pupils and their families.
- A qualified ELSA who works across the school.
- All pupils in EYFS are assessed using the Wellcomm programme to identify gaps in language and understanding.
- Staff are trained in emotional coaching which supports our behaviour curriculum.

Construction works:

The proposed expansion will extend the current Nursery room into the outside space; with the outside area being relocated further into the school grounds. This classroom will still be in use so minor disruption is foreseen and work will be managed and planned around school holidays.

Submission of feedback to the consultation:

It is important that all stakeholders and other interested parties are given the opportunity to express their views. The consultation period on this proposal is from Wednesday, 8th January 2025 to Wednesday, 29th January 2025 and we invite you to email with any questions and responses:

- via office@harriers-aspirations.org

Yours sincerely



Stephanie Coley
Principal