

Outcome of consultation on a proposal to change the age range of Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and permanently close the local authority-maintained nursery

Representations received during initial consultation (13th – 28th May 2024)

Response no.	Response	Comments
1	Strongly oppose	I am writing to express my views on permanently shutting the nursery at moor allerton hall primary I believe this is very disappointing as 2 out of 4 children went there and absolutely loved it with their older siblings at the school it makes it easy for us busy working moms to make one trip on the school run. I am actually really disheartened that this may no longer be an option for us. I am sure most mothers either children in the school feel same way. I just hope it gets voiced.
2	Strongly oppose	This is excellent provision for pre school students to enable them to be ready to start school. I feel it would be a very poor decision to remove this. Having had 2 children through the nursery, they would not have been ready to start reception without it.
3	Strongly oppose	No other nursery s near by and also if they get accepted in school from reception there will be kids there that my children will no instead of not noing anyone
4	Somewhat support	I support the proposal as it is important that the school can manage its budget to ensure that the majority of students get the best benefit and to strive to avoid any student being disadvantaged due to their educational needs. The school have identified that closing the nursery provision would decrease underfunding shortfalls due to low take up of places. My son attended the nursery and it was beneficial for his transition into school. At the time he attended the wrap around child care provision made an exception for him to attend at age ■ years. If they had not done this he would not have attended and would have stayed in privately run nursery. It is worth exploring if wrap around can be setup, as having the nursery at the school helps children get a great start in reception.
5	Strongly oppose	The nursery provision is a great transition for children coming into reception and staying on
6	Strongly oppose	affordable childcare provision is vital for parents to be able to work. Without it people fall back in benefits and the state. My own experience of childcare is that it is extraordinarily expensive and in short supply. Please do not remove this vital service.
7	Strongly oppose	This will categorically negatively impact the local working families who are the MAH catchment. The proposed alternative childcare choices in the area are all private run nurseries which are very expensive and not affordable to most and childminders are often full. It is well known that the under 5 childcare settors is struggling. I don't see a reason why the school can't extend and offer the wrap around care to preschool children like Talbot primary does. The reason why numbers have been declining is because working families need wrap around care. If the school was to offer it, I am sure there would be an uptake to preschool places. I am personally very disappointed to see this proposal put through after we have been asking the school to let preschool children access the after school provision. I know a few families would have definitely taken this opportunity up both last year and this year.
8	Strongly oppose	I'm wanting to send my son to the nursery in September 2024 so he can go to the same school as his sister.
9	Strongly oppose	The school has been dropping its provision at a time when it should be expanded. The low uptake is because the nursery hours have been cut and cut and cut. Working families cannot use the provision if the school day is so short, so instead they pay upwards of £80 per day to private nurseries for 3 extra hours of care.

		If the provision was extended even at an additional cost uptake would increase. Personally I know of more than 10 families in the past 2 years who didn't send children because of this issue. Extra hours can be charged for and will still look better than the alternative of £80+ per day
10	Strongly oppose	If government run childcare providers continue to close down in the local area there will definitely be a shortage on affordable and accessible he care provision. Private childcare is extremely expensive and there are already parts of the UK that are struggling to provide affordable affordable childcare places along with the FEE.
11	Strongly oppose	my son went to the nursery and my daughter was planning to go next year, it is essential for working patents, and helps the children get use to the environment before they start in reception.
12	Somewhat support	It would be good to have more budget to spend on the main school and given the limit of hours to school time only the nursery isn't helpful for a lot of parents
13	Strongly oppose	I have younger kids and my life will be easier if they all attend the same school.
14	Strongly support	Nursery is under subscribed and is costing the school too much money to run.
15	Strongly oppose	My child has started nursery January 2024 and he has settled in very well I also have a son in year 1 it will be difficult to pick both children up from different schools as I also work. The nursery is a great asset to the school and all of the teachers are lovely.
16	Strongly oppose	The nursery is a fantastic provision with amazing staff. My son greatly benefitted. It allows pupils to integrate smoothly into the main school. It is also good value for money for parents, whereas other local nurseries are very expensive. Also, there it provides more of a school experience. It would be a shame to lose this provision. So few schools can offer this.
17	Strongly oppose	The nursery has served my two grandsons well and is excellent preparation for their smooth entry into Reception. I was anticipating my 3rd grandson would have the same opportunity. Given the national shortage of nursery places this is important provision and research should be undertaken to identify why places are not being taken up with the school seeking to make the changes required to make it popular. You say wrap around care is not possible - what are the barriers to this happening? Has a business plan been drawn up looking at a cost benefit analysis of how many additional children would enrol if it were to be provided? Are there partners who you could work with locally to create wrap around provision?
18	Strongly oppose	Moor Allerton Hall is the heart of the community. The nursery is where it all begins. My daughters absolutely loved their time there, the teachers, the staff and the atmosphere. The emphasises the central importance of children's early years to their chances in life. My son is due to I start in September and he is very very excited to be joining his big sisters. He is familiar with the nursery surroundings and would very much thrive by going there. There are immense economic and social benefits to society when an 'early investment' in the wellbeing of young children. There needs to be a nursery at the school so the children feel 'accepted' and apart of the Moor Allerton Hall family from the get to.
19	Strongly oppose	-
20	Strongly oppose	Many children have got younger siblings that are about to go to the same school. If that changes, it would be not only disappointing, but it would cause a lot of trouble and change of plans for many families.
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22	Somewhat oppose	A school hours term time only offering was essential when our children were younger, and this would have been very difficult to find elsewhere at a reasonable distance. Being part of the school the children benefit from continuity. Parents of children at the school benefit from the on site nursery provision.
23	Somewhat oppose	I would be more inclined to support the proposal if it was from say September 2025 onwards, though it would be a huge loss to the school, but to begin a consultation which affects families only a few months before the start of the new school year seems extremely unfair and is penalising those hoping for a place for their child from September 2024.
24	Strongly oppose	Finding places for children younger than 3 for term only time places are so difficult and taking the option for under 4 will make this even harder
25	Strongly support	Increasing the quality of the childcare on offer as well as increasing availability for working parents, for whom there is a lack of accessible childcare hours in the local area.
26	Strongly oppose	We have an older child at MAH, and took a place for our younger child as soon as one was available. Because it's school hours and turn time the 36h covers all the costs for us. Where as at the private nursery we were at previously the 36hours only equated to a discount but still hundreds of pounds a month. Having a joint drop of and pick up and the cost saving has been a game changer to our quality of life. We're lucky that we don't rely on wrap around care and I understand this is something others have been asking for. I agree this would be a fantastic offering that would doubles increase the number of people wanting to use the service. As it would enable people with older siblings in the schools (which seems to be most of the kids at the nursery) wrap around care to get there working hours in. The nursery is currently at near capacity so is seams strange that they are saying it's under subscribed. Although they have been telling people for the last month that's it's probably closing so it's no surprise people will have withdrawn there application. It's a great nursery, the staff are great, the kids love it and joint drop offs and pick ups help elevate traffic congestion and pollution in the area. It would be a real shame if it went.
27	Strongly support	The decline in birth rate makes it untenable to continue with the current process.
28	Strongly oppose	I feel the nursery helps support settling the children into a school setting as well as building their confidence in a bigger setting. It is going to cause a massive inconvenience for parents who have children in the older year groups of Moor Allerton Hall.
29	Strongly oppose	I feel like the nursery helps with the child's confidence and settling in the bigger environment. It is causing a massive inconvenience as I planned work around as my child will be joining this nursery.
30	Strongly oppose	I believe that the Nursery is essential to the reasons why I chose MAHPS for my child. I think that a school Nursery has a high quality educationally focused offer, especially under the 30hours remit which a private or non-school setting simply does not offer. Families chose to send their children to MAHPS so all of their children are in one setting they can trust. Additionally as a Resource Provision the Nursery provides an early path way for children who are deaf or have a hearing impairment.
31	Strongly oppose	-
32	Strongly oppose	If we cannot find enough children to fill a Staff/helper to pupil ratio, then the staffing needs to be reduced, closing the nursery altogether is not acceptable. Preparing the communities younger children for school should be more important than local nursery competition or a recent drop in child registration.
33	Strongly oppose	Moor Allerton Hall Nursery is a fabulous resource for the community. It prepares the children for starting school when they reach reception age. It is very convenient when you have an older child at the school. There are very limited places in other nurseries in the local area, and even when a private nursery has space for funded places there are always extra charges for consumables (food, nappies etc). The private nurseries also do not offer term time only places, so more charges will be applicable. It would be such a shame to lose such a valuable asset to the community.
34	Somewhat support	If it saves the school money then I'm for it

35	Somewhat support	Would not directly affect my family as my children are older. Means funding can be used elsewhere to benefit the school.
36	Somewhat oppose	<p>I think there are a lack of 'teacher ' led nurseries in Leeds and nurseries that are part of the school are becoming more rare. I don't think enough thought has been given to wrap around care options, certainly staff have not been consulted to see their flexibility.</p> <p>I do not think the school has done enough to advertise places when the lack of children on the waiting list was highlighted. There have been no open days, no banners outside school, no advertising, chances for prospective parents to visit or speak to current parents. It's rare that any visitors to the school are shown the nursery, when it is a fantastic space, offers excellent provision with experienced early years teachers/staff. I think it is a knee jerk reaction to a low birth rate year and the school in a lot of debt and do not think the implications of no longer offering a nursery as part of the school have been thought through.</p>
37	Strongly oppose	<p>My son already attends Moor Allerton Hall and we were hoping for our daughter to join the nursery in January 2025. This would mean that we can take them both to school at the same time.</p> <p>We do not live in the Moor Allerton area so want to make it easier by taking them both to the same place for school and nursery. Having to go to two separate locations will make things more difficult.</p> <p>Also I have concerns as to whether this will impact the chances of his sister getting in to the school if she does not attend the nursery first.</p>
38	Strongly oppose	It is a great option to have, giving parents the option to have all kids in the family between the ages of 3 - 11 in the same setting. It simplifies childcare options for working parents, and I feel the school can easily provide wrap around care for children in nursery by utilising the existing breakfast and after school club already available in the school. We couldn't use the nursery with our youngest, who is now in Reception, due to this lack of wrapping care. Apart from that it was our first option. It will be a great shame to close the nursery and really demoralising for families, especially of working parents.
39	Strongly oppose	<p>A few parents have been asking the school over this year to provide the flexible wrap-around care provision. Why can't school provide this? How has this been looked at Talbot primary just around the corner can offer this so I don't see why MAH can't do the same.</p> <p>Offering wrap around provision to nursery children would mean more working families will take up places. I personally know of many families who would.</p> <p>There isn't a broad range of childcare available across the area that offer Funded Early Education (FEE) places. You should also take in consideration that Leeds is closing a number of Little Owls nursery and this will only drive demand up. Also the local nurseries are incredibly expensive (£80-90 day rate).</p> <p>It's worth noting the school has also been turning away applicants by telling them there is a strong likelihood the nursery will close in September. This means that the nursery will have NO children applying for 2024. This consultation should have run for Sept 2025 at least.</p> <p>This is a very disappointing proposal. it would be a great loss for the community.</p>
40	Strongly oppose	We are planning on sending our youngest daughter to the nursery in 2 years time, we already have 2 daughters at MAH and for logistics and financially, we would be looking to get a nursery place
41	Strongly oppose	There is limited amount of similar nursery provision in the area (I do not think that private nurseries such as 22 Street Lane or Primley Park are a feasible option for most families). Removing the provision at Moor Allerton Hall PS will have a large negative impact on families that cannot afford private childcare or cannot manage 2 drop-offs for their children). The nursery offers good continuity for local children who then go on to join the primary school - removing it would negatively impact on them. Absence of a nursery will also negatively impact the school because it will make it less attractive to families - this will exacerbate the existing issue the school has in attracting families. The main reason people do not choose the MAH nursery provision is because of the lack of wrap around care which is problematic for working families. Fixing this would fix the low

		numbers taking up places. I do not understand why offering wrap around care can work at a school such as Talbot and not at MAH?
42	Strongly oppose	There is insufficient small child care in the area. Your current offer to families is not the right model. Change the current model
43	Strongly oppose	There are many families in this locality who need this type of support. These are parents who may not be working as they cannot afford childcare, but who would benefit from the provision offered by the school for their preschool children. If such families are to re-enter the workforce they need reassurance that appropriate childcare including wraparound is available in the immediate locality. At the present time childcare costs are extortionate.
44	Strongly oppose	My child attended the nursery since he was 3 years old. It was of great benefit for him in his speech, communication skills and social development. I work in another town and my wife doesn't drive, his older sister goes to MAHPS and it was convenient for her to take them both to the same school. I want their baby brother to have the same chance in the school's nursery when he becomes 3 years old.
45	Strongly oppose	I do not support this proposal as the option to extend the wrap around care options has not been considered. We cannot use the nursery as it does not offer comparable hours to other preschools. We would love to but the offering is inadequate for working parents. Chapel Allerton Primary School and Talbot Primary School offer wrap around care so there is a local precedent. I also believe that telling families that the nursery will close becomes a self fulfilling prophecy as families will not sign up for the provision thereby leaving the school short of places. Furthermore there is not other local provision available. Our daughter attends Little Owls Chapel Allerton and we have struggled to find another place. This closure is exasperating the situation and not helping the community.
46	Strongly oppose	Because the way salaries and wages work now, most families need two working parents. For that to happen we need nurseries. Shutting down more nurseries isn't helpful.
47	Strongly oppose	This is an excellent service provider. There are not many settings like this in the area, most parents do not want to use private day care nurseries that charge an extortionate amount. This offers a great service to those families that are struggling whilst also providing a brilliant stepping stone to the main school reception intake. Furthermore you are losing a huge demographic by not allowing wrap around care that matches the rest of the school age 4-11. The uptake on the places I am confident would be higher if this was offered. With the new 'free hours' they have come into effect I am aware of lots and lots of private day cares that are topping up their fees to allow for the losses. They are obviously not allowed to do this so they call it something else like 'expendables'. I am sure that parents of children at MAH preschool would be happy to pay a very small supplement to cover fees etc, because this would be minimal compared to those private day care costs. These fees could just be payable by families that are not considered low income. Whilst I understand that this somewhat contradicts a 'free' preschool the fact is that if his preschool closes parents will be paying ALOT more sourcing childcare elsewhere.
48	Strongly oppose	My other daughter goes to reception already so it will be very difficult for me to take my second child to another place. It's gonna be difficult to pick and drop from two different places as I don't drive either. Plus child gets used to one place and then they have to leave and adjust to a new place which sometimes is difficult for children for adopt new place. Kindly consider this decision. I really hope nursery doesn't close. Thank you so much.
49	Strongly oppose	The Nursery is a very important Early Years education run by highly professional staff and Teacher delivering education rather than child care. The school already delivers wrap around care for the rest of school so this could be extended to Nursery children.

50	Strongly oppose	<p>I was concerned and saddened to read the recent communication about the potential closure of the Moor Allerton Hall Primary School's nursery. The information provided by the school's management has been vague and contradictory, raising significant concerns about the transparency and planning surrounding this decision. It is clear that neither parents or nursery staff have been consulted or kept fully informed of these developments. Worse still, a recent email sent exclusively to prospective parents undermines the intended public consultation process; by encouraging families to seek alternative childcare, this selective approach not only causes unnecessary anxiety for both parents and staff but potentially sabotages the perceived viability of the nursery to the council.</p> <p>This proposal seems particularly ill timed and short-sighted given the well-documented national childcare shortages, exacerbated by new government initiatives increasing parent demand. Furthermore, considering the difficulty of securing private nursery placements with long waiting lists, this decision could leave many families struggling to find suitable and affordable childcare before September. The suggestion of 22 Street Lane as a viable alternative is frankly absurd, given their long waiting lists coupled with a £249 'registration charge' and daily fees nearing £100; this is out of the question for most families, including my own. Equally, not everyone needs the flexibility of longer opening hours or provision outside of term time, as this stretches the government's 30-hour funding and requires considerable financial contributions from parents. We are concerned the school is prioritising profit by leasing the space to a private entity, undermining the school's responsibility to the community, and ignoring the critical role the nursery plays in children's early years education.</p> <p>Our family, along with many others, is incredibly pleased with the exceptional care and support provided by the nursery staff to our son. Their dedication and experience far exceeds what we've experienced with private childcare providers. The staff's passion for the children's development and wellbeing is supported by a nurturing environment that actively prepares children for reception and beyond – this proposal would destroy the legacy that school staff have worked so hard to build. It would also sever the nursery's access to the resources, infrastructure, and collective knowledge afforded by its current integration into the wider school. The school would lose part of its culture and identity, and be all the poorer for it.</p> <p>Furthermore, this proposed closure would not only disrupt our own family's plans for our youngest son but also deprive many others of this valuable public provision. The lack of transparent communication and proactive exploration of alternative solutions to ensure the nursery's sustainability has severely eroded trust among parents, children, and the local community. We urge the school's management and governing board to reconsider this decision. We believe a more open and collaborative approach would lead to practical and long-lasting solutions that safeguard this vital service for years to come.</p>
51	Neither support nor oppose	<p>As the Headteacher of the school in 1991 when the Nursery opened I am saddened to see the possibility of its demise. It was a state of the art building with generous staffing and funds for equipment. The waiting list was very long! Much has changed since 1991 but I am surprised that the school is now suffering from a decrease in numbers so quickly after a new building was provided for an expansion in numbers!</p> <p>I am sure that Governors and Staff have considered their proposals carefully and must have solid reasons behind them which I am unaware of. I do hope that strategies can be devised to save this provision and give local children the excellent start to their education they have had for over 30 years.</p>
52	Somewhat oppose	<p>The impact on the Early Years provision - Reception classes.</p> <p>Concerned about how much space / additional rooms the Private nursery will need.</p> <p>This will have an impact on the children and staff working in the Reception classes at Moorallerton Hall.</p> <p>How the children's needs will be met ... covering a large age group.</p> <p>The strong link that is currently in place between the school nursery / reception classes that benefits Reception staff in getting to know our children well.</p>
53	Strongly oppose	<p>We should never look to cut public services and replace them with private companies. My daughter is at nursery now and is very well cared for and I have serious reservations about those who will come on and replace the current service. Nursery</p>

		and all education should be a not-for-profit service to guarantee that the child's care and well-being is at the forefront of every decision they make; this will not be the case of privatised - they will look to reduce spending in the unit whilst undoubtedly increasing the costs to parents to maximise profits. Also the short notice period of the temporary closure and swift consultation period is not acceptable in my mind!
54	Strongly oppose	Because it provides a valuable support for families who are more vulnerable, may be unable to afford other provision and allow the children the chance to go into a school Environment supporting overall attainment of poorer families. Shouldn't the council be justifying why it's the right thing to stop this not the other way around. What are the compelling arguments?
55	Somewhat oppose	I believe that it helps to have a low A local nursery alongside the school and going private does not help a lot of parents who have other children at the school
56	Strongly support	A private childcare provider would make the nursery a much more accessible option for working parents in the area whilst also providing funded places. It would enable the school to bridge some of the financial deficit from loss created by the rejected 2-pan application.
57	Strongly oppose	I think losing the nursery would be a huge loss to the local community. The nursery offers affordable child care for local families, a number of whom come from deprived backgrounds. The expertise of the staff offers a level of care and early years education that I don't believe a private nursery would be able to match.
58	Neither support nor oppose	I would like to know the financial burden on the core teaching that the nursery, if it continues, is likely to have. I am presuming the continuation of the current provision will negatively impact the core business of the school (Reception to Y6)
59	Strongly oppose	32 hours in a private nursery still costs hundreds of pounds a months. It is simply not comparable for to what is currently offered. For many families this will have a significant financial impact. I've asked the school for the minutes of meetings of the board of governors, to try and understand the finances but I have just been told they will try and get them to me the week after half term break. As in after the public consultation closes. This make it impossible to know how the school has made the decision and therefore whether we should be supporting it.
60	Somewhat oppose	I don't understand enough about the proposals to make an informed decision but my daughter went to the preschool and it was great so I would rather it stayed as it is
61	Strongly oppose	-
62	Somewhat support	Allow private providers in the area to care/educate 3-4 year olds
63	Strongly support	Because the school nursery does not have enough children to use it if it continues to be only open 9am-3pm. This then has a detrimental effect on the school budgets
64	Strongly oppose	Because poor judgment by previous and current financial management should not impinge upon the local children and parents.