

**Outcome of the public consultation to change the age range of Rothwell Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and permanently close the nursery**

Anonymised (redacted) representations received during the initial consultation  
(30 June – 21 July 2023)

Response number	Comment on the proposal	Response
1	I own a private early years setting very close to the school and we are struggling to fill all of the places at this time so reopening the nursery at Rothwell Primary School will impact my business.	Strongly Support
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- having the nursery enabled my child to be more 'school ready' for when entering reception and I would like the same for my second child.</li> <li>- helped with childcare arrangements</li> <li>- my child did well in the nursery class.</li> </ul>	Somewhat Oppose
3	<p>After moving into the area in 2014 a huge draw for us was Rothwell Primary School. We researched into nursery's and schools in the area and found this one to be the best both in Ofsted reports and local sentiment. We currently have █ children in the school that both started there at 3 years old in nursery and we have found it beneficial that they have bonded with teachers which in turn has made the transition between nursery and school so easy for them!</p> <p>As our █ child has come along in the last █ months, we were quite upset that █ cannot have the same experience in █ early education that our eldest have had. We feel uncomfortable sending █ to a nursery in another place and worry that █ won't be able to get into Rothwell Primary school at all when it comes to going into Reception as with █ older █.</p>	Strongly Oppose
4	<p>We havnt used the nursery provision (current children aged 4 and 6) because it doesn't support wrap around care needed for working parents, which I have seen is in dire need in the area. School nursery provision don't meet the needs of the general population of working parents. Please refer to 'pregnant then screwed' on Instagram/Facebook for figures. If 8-6 hours were available there would undoubtedly be more uptake in nursery places. People NEED to work. We are in a cost of living and childcare crisis. I've had to pay £199.88/month at a private nursery to achieve an all year round stretched provision for my █ year old. It's insane the costs.</p>	Neither support nor oppose
5	<p>I live locally with a toddler who would require a nursery place. I do not use private nurseries and shouldn't feel forced into doing so. I picked this school based on a good nursery space flowing from indoor/outdoor settings easily and no member of the public can speak or access the children at this school in any way unlike other local school nurseries. It was chosen by me based on this feeling of security.</p> <p>I live within close proximity as I did not wish to do a school run by car as we enjoy stress free walking. My eldest has attended all the way through from nursery and still has the friend █ met on the very first day of nursery so it is an important part of a community school, forming of long friendships for children and their stability.</p> <p>I feel a course of possible action to look into for this school if funding is the issue is to offer 30 places instead of 45 and become a single class per year school. There are more than enough other local primary schools for those living closer to them.</p> <p>The other local primary schools to me are over busy roads, one which has many speeding drivers on with an approx 15 minute walk. The second is up a big steep hill along another busy road with a 30 minute walk. I do not wish to become a parent who drives to the nursery run. It is stressful and dangerous</p>	Strongly Oppose

	<p>enough without adding more traffic to the smaller local schools who do not have the parking/drive through that RPS has.</p> <p>I would have one child attending RPS and a toddler attending nursery in a school with a different uniform as their nursery wear a uniform at ■■■ Primary school and juggling 2 separate school runs.</p> <p>I am aware there are currently more than 3-4 new build estates appearing locally so I am astounded as to how premature this decision seems.</p> <p>Within my street alone there are 2 toddlers/babies who at birth are registered within Wakefield (born at pinderfields) as is my toddler. I would hope the birth rate figures of Rothwell include these as I struggle to see the declining birth rate.</p>	
6	<p>As a ■■■ of a child at this school and a ■■■ year old who would be attending this nursery I feel the nursery should stay. Who knows how many children could need it in the near future. Also as I often collect my ■■■ having to walk some distance to two different establishments would be hard. Surely the school could come up with another option ie smaller room/portakabin?</p>	Strongly Oppose
7	<p>Short term money saving which will have long term impact on places available as the population grows and new houses are built</p>	Strongly Oppose
8	<p>It is such a great nursery and will be a sad loss. My children did not like other nursery but as soon as they started here they slotted right in and loved it. Also the parents that already have children in the school that have siblings ready to start nursery will miss out on how fantastic it was. And will have to rush around on a morning to go to two different place and be on time for school and work</p>	Strongly Oppose
9	<p>Very young children should not be formal education, they should be in a nursery setting, learning through play.</p> <p>What would the ratios be? staff to children,</p> <p>As you stated there are enough providers in the area to offer the care for 3 year olds!</p> <p>Please look to European counties, there children do not begin formal education till they are much older.</p>	Strongly Oppose
10	<p>I can't find the words to stress how strongly I oppose this proposal. Rothwell Primary is geographically and symbolically at the heart of the Rothwell community.</p> <p>The nursery offers genuine term time only provision, avoiding costs for those now facing the prospect of paying substantial holiday fees hidden behind the veil of '30 hours free childcare' (limited to 38 weeks annually). During a cost of living crisis, are we honestly in a position to push this addition financial duress on to hard working local parents?</p> <p>Those commuting children of various young ages to different local providers face the cost, logistical and environmental stresses of making this workable which frankly all feels so avoidable if a centrally located facility remains open and available to the 3-11 age range.</p> <p>The falling birth rate issue is a demographic smokescreen used to mask this ill thought decision. This is a strategic issue for consideration at local and national government level, not something to be callously used to penalise local hard working parents. Surely, the continued provision of local, flexible school provision would be an incentive to boost the birth rate and this closure will only heighten the issue.</p> <p>We pay increased council tax every year and every year we see services stripped. Home Leigh care home, gone. Springhead Park bonfire, gone. Next the local nursery? It's unacceptable and frankly the school and council need</p>	Strongly Oppose

	to work harder to find better options.  Be the people to support community assets, not delete them.	
11	<p>My ■■■ is a current reception pupil at Rothwell Primary School. Rothwell Primary is a fabulous school but I am greatly dissapointed by this proposal. The nursery experience by my ■■■ at Rothwell Primary was excellent and thoroughly prepared ■■■ for school life. Reception class this year had a mix of children already accustomed to the setting and children from other provisions. Closing this nursery will mean you have 45 children who do not know anyone, in a strange environment. This can only harm/prolong the settling in period.</p> <p>By closing the nursery I would have to find alternative preschool education for my ■■■.</p> <p>Whilst other local schools have nursery's they all have the same/similar start and end time. Obviously I cannot be in two places at once and so this means I will be unable to consider alternative school nurseries.</p> <p>30 hours free childcare is only applicable for 38 weeks a year and therefore there is a shortfall in the funding that has to be made up by parents. I have ■■■ and therefore this means I will have to pay several hundred pounds every month to cover this shortfall. In the current financial climate this shortfall in funding may prevent a child from attending a private nursery. All children should have the right to a quality education. There is a nursery local to Rothwell Primary that offers term time. It very recently had a 'requires improvement' OFSTED rating. I am aware that this has now changed to 'good' however the local opinion of this nursery remains negative given its recent history and I would not feel comfortable sending my ■■■ there or feel comfortable that the quality of education is a good.</p> <p>I currently walk my ■■■ to school and will have to drive when my ■■■ start nursery so that I can get everyone to school/nursery on time. Given the drive to be more environmental friendly, this goes against that.</p> <p>Overall the loss of this nursery would be a huge loss to this community and will only punish hard working parents both financially and logistically.</p> <p>I strongly oppose this proposal</p>	Strongly Oppose
12	For the rest of the school community to have the staff and resources it needs to flourish	Strongly Support
13	I believe it is in the best interests of the wider school with regards to utilisation of space, staff and financial stability.	Strongly Support
14	The large number of children in one small classroom especially since the amount of additional learning needs	Strongly Support
15	■■■ my children attended the nursery and it undoubtedly meant they had a much less stressful start when the began in reception. They were both comfortable and happy attending a familiar environment whilst many other children were upset and unsettled. It's such a loss to remove this provision from the school.	Strongly Oppose
16	Rothwell is one of the only schools in Rothwell that provided in school nursery for children. As a ■■■ myself I am aware of the benefits of attending a school nursery compared to a private day care nursery, most often children progress better through school having attended a school nursery first and make transition in to reception much easier. I live on ■■■ as the school and am now having to look at Carlton or Methley to send my child as other schools in Rothwell do not offer this provision. This has an environmental impact as we will then need potentially two cars in order to take my child to nursery and get to work.	Strongly Oppose

17	A new housing estate is being built round the corner from this school- Rothwell does not need to lose a nursery- it needs the places due to the extra pressure the new estate will put on nursery places.	Strongly Oppose
18	A new housing estate is being built in Carlton- why close this nursery when the places will be needed?	Strongly Oppose
19	This is another method of Rothwell losing out. You say births are falling but every day care nursery is completely full with families struggling to get a place	Strongly Oppose
20	<p>The birth rate in the Rothwell area has been falling over the past years as mentioned in the Introduction to the Survey. The consequence of this is inevitably that the area requires fewer nursery places. Rothwell Primary School Governors, mindful of the many other local providers of Nursery provision, made the difficult decision to close the nursery for admissions last year.</p> <p>The reason for the closure was twofold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Cost - Income was falling since the falling birth rate was resulting in fewer admissions to nursery. In addition, resources were being diverted from the 4-11 age range to address Additional Needs in Nursery.</li> <li>* Space - Closing the Nursery allowed us to increase the space used by Reception age children. The result is a vastly improved learning environment for these children.</li> </ul> <p>Mindful of the falling birth rate, coupled with the many other local providers of Nursery provision, the permanent closure of the RPS Nursery would allow School to further increase the learning opportunities for Reception Years as well as saving costs by the Nursery not being a burden upon the rest of the school.</p>	Strongly Support
21	Improved learning experience for the 45 children in Reception, as there are two rooms available for the year group rather than two teachers being in a single room.	Strongly Support
22	<p>I intended to use this service as I live nearby, my child would have started nursery and stay at the school until age 11. I do not want to send my child to another school for 1 year and then move them leaving their friends. I do not use nursery for child care it will be for my child to interact with other children and make friends and be in a school environment that is safe.</p> <p>100+ houses have been build in Carlton bringing in families, also Rothwell is on the border with Wakefield and many families use Pinderfields for Child birth which forces registration in Wakefield council, are these children counted in the low birth rate of Rothwell?</p>	Strongly Oppose
23	Beneficial for the reception class overall	Strongly Support
24	<p>The extra space for Reception is really good and makes a big difference to the quality of education for the children. Confirmed by the recent Ofsted Inspection.</p> <p>The birth rate is falling and there is now lots of other nursery provision in the local area, from school nurseries nearby to wrap around Day Care.</p> <p>The number of children applying to Rothwell Primary school nursery was unsustainably low and having a negative impact on the school budget.</p>	Strongly Support
25	This means that there will be 2 seperate classrooms for reception children rather than all 45 children in one classroom spread across 2 carpet spaces which means the children in reception would struggle to focus on their own teacher. Also the nursery wasn't being used by most parents who needed wrap around care	Strongly Support

26	Better provision and space for reception children. Both my children attended reception here and there was a definite lack of space, quiet areas and could be overwhelming for some children. Plenty of options locally for school nursery and wrap around nurseries	Strongly Support
27	The presenting social, emotional, Behavioural and mental wellbeing needs presenting from children today especially from the impact from COVID requires more support from school. Staff are already work at beyond capacity to support the needs of these children and I feel Rothwell Primary not having the nursery will only have a positive impact on the children there being able to access all support aids.	Strongly Support
28	My ■■■ has just finished Reception Class at Rothwell Primary. Nursery closed last year, so they had plenty of space this year. When my ■■■ was in Reception it was very tightly packed with 45 children in one room but with 2 different carpet areas, so it was really nice for my ■■■ year to have lots more space to learn and play.	Somewhat Support
29	My ■■■ (who is going into year ■■■) really benefitted from attending nursery at Rothwell primary, as well as ■■■ private setting. It really helped ■■■ settle into the school routine. My ■■■ who is starting reception in September, has not been able to benefit from this. I appreciate reasons that have been put forward by the school but at no point did they canvass opinion prior to closing, albeit 'temporarily'. I feel the school might have secured additional children for nursery class had they adapted their offering as they only offered a 2.5 day week. Very few parents don't work and are able to collect or drop off at midday on a weekday. I'm also very disappointed with the fact nursery closed a year before this consultation process and I had to chase the school for any information about it, only to be told about the closure. By design, the decision to close so long prior to consultation limits the opportunity for people to contribute as families that are new to the school will have already made alternative arrangements, which completely undermines the consultation process. I believe the reason for closure is 100% to do with making it easier to manage reception intake and not actually to do with birth rates and low attendance as stated.	Strongly Oppose
30	Seems like a waste of space and resources that could be better used by the reception class that currently shares a space between 45+ children	Strongly Support
31	The quality of the provision offered for children in Reception has improved significantly as a result of being able to split 45 children across two rooms. This means that children in reception are able to receive high quality teaching and learning in a suitable provision rather than 45 children squeezing into one room. This benefits all children, but especially those with sensory and SEMH needs. The falling numbers in nursery also had financial implications, which would only become of greater significance over time as a result of the falling numbers throughout Rothwell.	Strongly Support
32	More space for the reception children	Strongly Support
33	There is loads of nursery provision in and around Rothwell and if this is costing the school money due to lack of take up, don't see why it should subsidise the nursery at the expense of the rest of the school. It's not needed.	Strongly Support
34	As a ■■■ for Rothwell Primary School I have seen the vast benefit the extra space provided to the Reception Class has benefited the children. With increasing number of SEND requirements and this year being particularly high and complex needs the safety of the children and wellbeing of staff would have been a struggle if they had remained in the single room for all 45 of the pupils. The extra space has hugely benefited the pupils. As well as the	Strongly Support

	<p>financial incentive at a time when budgets are tighter than ever and allows a focus on the remaining pupils.</p> <p>█ after the nursery shut but i was given the impression that demand for the facility was already declining and with a continued trend to this effect the closure makes sense to remain.</p> <p>I am very supportive of this decision.</p>	
35	<p>The decrease in birth rates has meant fewer admissions to our nursery, affecting our income. To add, resources were being diverted from the 4-11 age range to address Additional Needs in Nursery.</p> <p>Closing the Nursery allowed us to increase the space used by Reception age children. The result is a vastly improved learning environment for these children.</p> <p>Considering a falling birth rate, and the availability of other local providers of Nursery provision, the permanent closure of the RPS Nursery would allow School to further increase the learning opportunities for Reception Years. This would also help to save costs previously diverted to additional nursery support.</p>	Strongly Support
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The changing demographics and declining birth rate in Leeds have led to the nursery being underutilised. There is also significant other provision of nursery space within Rothwell and the surrounding villages. Therefore, there is no critical need for a school nursery to be provided to parents – its not needed and isn't used.</li> <li>- Given this, the income associated with running the nursery was not covering the costs and it was placing a drain on the wider school budget. This is not appropriate, and the wider school should not be subsidising a nursery when it is not needed.</li> <li>- The space currently used by the nursery would be then available to reception class / early years. This would (and is shown to be having during the temporary closure) have a transformational impact on that part of the school where space is restricted. This is now a better learning experience and environment.</li> </ul> <p>This is not an easy decision, as any family that is impacted by it is one too many. However, it is clearly the right decision given the reasons above.</p>	Strongly Support
37	<p>There are a high number of places available at other nurseries locally. These are more suited to the needs of working families, as the hours are flexible.</p>	Strongly Support
38	<p>I believe the children in reception class now get a much better experience, with the full intake being split across 2 classrooms and 2 outside spaces, rather than having 45 children all crammed into one classroom. They have the space they need to learn, play and interact with other children and the teachers can teach in a much better environment.</p> <p>My youngest █ has █. █ has jut completed reception and I believe the experience on the whole was far better for █ than it was for my eldest █ who was one of 45 children in one reception class. My youngest █ has benefited greatly from the smaller class size, fewer children in one classroom and less background noise, allowing █ to thrive. I genuinely don't think █ would have thrived as much as █ has this year under the old system of the full reception intake in one classroom. I think the old system would have hindered █ and that's why I strongly support the permanent closure of the nursery school, so that children in reception can have the best possible physical environment to thrive.</p>	Strongly Support

39	I have [redacted] children in this school. My eldest attended reception whilst the nursery was open so all 45 kids crammed into one classroom with one outdoor play area. My youngest has just spent the year in reception being able to have 2 classes and 2 outdoor play areas. I am so thankful that the nursery was closed this past year as it has made a massive difference to my [redacted]. [redacted] and being able to have [redacted] own space and quiet area has been amazing. I honestly don't think [redacted] would have coped if [redacted] was stuck with 45 children in one classroom. Having 2 classrooms for reception has allowed the school to put on events for parents whilst still being able to have a separate area for learning and play to continue. With the additional space children can be so much more creative and not become overwhelmed by the busyness and noise. My [redacted] was very reserved and wouldn't interact with other children apart from the one child [redacted] already knew. Being able to separate them into 2 rooms has allowed my child to form new friendships and gain confidence in so many ways. It was the best thing closing the nursery and hope other children and parents can benefit from the change in the future.	Strongly Support
40	Having 2 reception classrooms has improved my [redacted] transition to school hugely. [redacted] wasn't overwhelmed by large class sizes and has made some great bonds with the children in [redacted] class	Strongly Support
41	As a parent of a child with SEND, I wholly support this proposal. Having a smaller class size has been paramount to enable our [redacted] to develop. The calmer environment is vital for [redacted] to be able to regulate [redacted], and it has also meant [redacted] been able to have a much closer relationship to [redacted] teacher and the teaching assistants.	Strongly Support
42	With no Nursery it means that there can be 2 separate Reception classes instead of 45 children in one class! This will be so much more beneficial to the children, having 2 classes of 22-23 is so much better for the social and emotional well-being of our children. Also on a financial note, the school would be so much better off with whatever funds they are given for the Reception children. Rather than trying to fund a half empty Nursery.	Strongly Support
43	Gives more space for reception classes, current space was restricted	Strongly Support
44	As a parent of a nursery aged child I have faced no issues securing a child care place. Closure of the nursery offers a better educational environment for Reception aged children.	Strongly Support
45	Birth rate is declining in the area which means the allocated positions in the nursery were not being filled. The school can't offer wrap around care as Leeds city council don't own the building and many families need additional childcare due to work commitments. Unfortunately the school can't provide additional care through the half term breaks.	Strongly Support
46	The nursery provision was taking up much needed funds and staff from the rest of the school whilst being under occupied.	Strongly Support
47	The school site does not support a nursery in terms of space. Reception need the existing nursery space for their provision to be successful - too many reception children were previously in too small an area for their needs.	Strongly Support
48	I've seen first hand the difference having two separate classrooms for Reception has had on the children in Reception	Strongly Support
49	It's an integral part of the school and transitioning from the school nursery into reception class is so much easier than from outside settings	Strongly Oppose
50	[redacted] my [redacted] attend Rothwell primary school, my eldest was in reception class when nursery WAS open [redacted] loved it but there was a lot of children in a small	Strongly Support

	space it did not effect their learning but I feel it was small for all of them. My ■ who has leaves reception class in September so attended when the nursery was closed has had a fab year, there's more space for ■ to learn and play with ■ friends and the learning opportunities are more separate rather than all on top of each other, when I attended a play day it was so much better then having the two classes for reception rather than the one class.	
51	My child has just completed reception and has benefited greatly from being in a classroom with 22 other children, rather than crammed in with 44 other children. Having being into the reception 2 classroom it's crazy to think that 45 children used to share that classroom!	Strongly Support
52	As a teacher of the ■ at Rothwell Primary I can see first hand the difference that having 2 separate classrooms has meant for the Reception children. Children have benefitted greatly from a calmer environment and a much more productive learning space. It is impossible to teach 45 children in the one smaller classroom without it having a negative effect on those students who need extra support. This year the cohort has had a high number of SEND needs and a classroom of 45 would have caused high distress and dysregulation - disrupting the learning of others.	Strongly Support
53	Smaller reception classes. More space for the kids. Nursery didn't work for us anyway as we couldn't use the breakfast and after school clubs due to their age. This meant they had to go to a childminder or private nursery.	Strongly Support
54	-	Strongly support
55	My Reception age child has benefitted from the closure of the nursery this year as a result of being able to access increased amounts of outdoor space and a dedicated classroom. If the nursery were open, 45 Reception age children would have half the outdoor space they have enjoyed this year and half of the class would have teaching input in a breakout space but have to return to a cramped classroom for the unstructured time. The Reception classroom I do not feel can accommodate 45 children comfortably. My child has thrived by being in a dedicated classroom.	Strongly Support
56	Our ■ have had a fantastic year in reception this year and I couldn't imagine what it would have been like if all the pupils were in one room. The carpet area would have been squashed and the noise unbearable especially when so many pupils had additional needs	Strongly Support
57	There are other local nurseries in the rothwell area that can accommodate families needs, hhe thought of my ■ going into a class full of 45 kids with one teacher is not appealing. I think it's the correct decision to close the nursery.	Strongly Support
58	To allow focus on the reception classes	Strongly Support
59	Wrap around support is not offered which most parents require therefore spaces aren't filled up. Also, it would mean losing one of the reception classrooms and having to squeeze both classes into one classroom. The current set up with two separate classrooms is much more effective for children's learning.	Strongly Support
60	when Rothwell school nursery was open both reception classes were in one room split onto 2 carpets which must be so hard for the reception children to concentrate and for the teachers to control engaging the children. It must be hard not with both classes in one room and have that time to learn without too much distraction.	Strongly Support
61	My ■ has just been in reception class at the school and has really benefited from the fact that Reception can now be split over two classrooms. ■ got to learn in a smaller group and was able to get much more support than if all 45 children were in one classroom. This wasn't possible when nursery was open	Strongly Support



62	-	Strongly support
63	With such a low birth rate over the last few years I think the main focus of the school should be on the children they have coming in the reception class using all staff available for these children rather than potentially a few neuter children were it is not compulsory to be in school.	Strongly Support
64	<p>I am a teacher in the [REDACTED] at Rothwell Primary School. I feel it is in the best interest of the children to have the space previously occupied by nursery for the reception children. Historically, 45 reception children have shared one room and the learning environment, due to volume and overcrowding, was not sufficient or appropriate for the youngest learners. It was also detrimental to the mental health of the workforce.</p> <p>Since the temporary closure, outcomes in reading, writing and maths have significantly improved and children with SEND needs have been better catered for.</p> <p>It would be extremely disappointing to lose our capacity to support children to achieve the best they can.</p>	Strongly Support
65	With dwindling numbers, the fact that 45 children can now be split into 2 classrooms will only help each child develop, allow teachers to identify different issues and act on them. Lower numbers will also allow them to grow faster and better with more focused time.	Strongly Support
66	This would mean that my youngest would have to go to a different school and I wouldn't be able to be in two places at once especially as I don't drive and also I think that at 3 they are definitely ready for nursery to build friendships and learn.	Strongly Oppose
67	Better provision for reception	Strongly Support
68	Sustainability of the school	Strongly Support
69	It will make it more costly for those with older children already at the school to find alternative nursery provisions for their 3 year old. Another school nursery would be problematic due to similar start/ finish times so would have to look at putting 3 year old in private nursery.	Strongly Oppose
70	The analysis regarding falling birth rates and the subsequent impact on resourcing. Basically the decision is logical and also sensible regarding the reception space requirements.	Strongly Support
71	<p>As the [REDACTED] of Rothwell Primary School I never expected or wanted to be in a position where we would seek to close our school nursery. I know this is something which several parents would want to access for their children and it would be something we would ideally offer for our school.</p> <p>That being said, [REDACTED] is to ensure that I look at the big picture and ensure that our whole school is financially viable and is a position that best supports all of our children who attend Rothwell Primary School, so they have the best offer to help them to thrive and REACH their potential.</p> <p>Initially during Spring 2021 several factors emerged which resulted in the [REDACTED] (supported by [REDACTED]) taking the difficult decision to seek a consultation for the permanent closure of the school nursery. These factors included: the fall in the number of children and families using the nursery due to two main factors: a reduced number of children of nursery age in the area (reduced birth rate and projected continuation of this trend) and reduced demand due to the numerous private providers in the areas that offered holiday and wraparound for nursery aged children – these impacting negatively upon</p>	Strongly Support

income and the school budget due having to subsidise the nursery costs from the main school budget.

Early in Spring 2022, [REDACTED] recognised the financial implication of continuing to fund and subsidise nursery was not financially viable for the school. By continuing to offer Nursery places we would have to reduce the level of support we needed to give our Reception children and other year groups. We had worked with the Sufficiency team to ensure that we had looked at all options, as well as ensuring that there were sufficient places in the local area for the [REDACTED] children who were due to remain in Nursery for the September 2022. Due to the falling birth rate in the area, there were numerous local options for parents/carers in good nursery provisions.

Initially, we were going to go through the formal process of requesting to close the nursery, however the time scales would have meant parents would have only found out just before their children would have been due to come to nursery in the September. We did not feel this was acceptable for parents, children or staff, so in March 2022, the [REDACTED] had made the decision to temporarily close the Nursery from September 2022. (This gave parents/carers 5+ months to find a new nursery place for the September). Firstly, we informed the [REDACTED] families directly impacted through writing to them and they were offered the opportunity to discuss this with [REDACTED] in more detail. [REDACTED] personally phoned or met with several of the parents/carers to have further discussions. We also supported families by sharing information on other local nurseries and offered to help if they had any difficulty finding a nursery place. We also informed parents across our school community.

We have now come to the end of our first year of the temporary closure of nursery. Prior to this year when we operated a nursery provision our 45 place Reception class used one classroom and one outdoor space. This was far from ideal for our children with so many children in this one space. Our current reception class (due to move to year 1) has almost a quarter of cohort on the SEND register. Whilst all of our reception children have benefitted by being able to operate inside as two classes (they have used the nursery classroom this year) the greatest benefit has been for the high number of children with SEND needs, as they have been in a larger, more spacious environment with fewer children. This has helped by creating a much calmer space and helped to reduce sensory overload for our children and give them an excellent foundation to build upon.

I do understand why some of our families would like the nursery to remain open; for their children to join Rothwell Primary School sooner, however the negative impact this would have on the quality of the provision we could offer our reception children and also have detrimental financial implications for our school having to subsidise nursery provision. These factors combined with the knowledge that we have several high-quality nursery provisions in Rothwell, with capacity and places for children and families; therefore leads [REDACTED] to strongly believe that the decision to permanently close the school nursery is the right one for our school community and children.