

Consultation Summary Document
Lowering the school age at The Parkgate Academy

Total number of responses: 42

Total number of positive responses: 39

Total number of negative responses: 3



Feedback breakdown:

Comments made through Class DoJo by current Parkgate Academy parents: 17 (all positive)

Emails sent directly to the address supplied on the consultation letter: 14 (13 positive, 1 negative)

Comments posted on social media (Ollerton and Boughton Town Council page): 11 (9 positive, 2 negative)

Comments were received from parents at The Parkgate Academy, parents of children not at The Parkgate Academy (including pre-school children), local community members (including a Town Councillor) and those involved with other pre-school childcare providers.

Consultation Response Themes	Comments	Reply from The Parkgate Academy
Other pre-school provision in the area	<p>I have struggled to get my son into a nursery setting nearby and I have applied for my older son to join your school in September</p> <p>When looking at nurseries for my child, we struggled as there wasn't a great deal of choice</p> <p>We originally wanted our little girl to go to Luan's Little People, it's great that you're planning to open up on the same site</p> <p>With the new housing developments that are currently going up, there is a need for this provision – I for one would be promoting this to our local families</p> <p>Fun Farm currently has many unoccupied spaces due to lack of demand in the local area. The added burden of further competition may mean that we have to close due to our own overheads.</p> <p>I'm sure you've already looked at the statistics, and I'm merely playing devil's advocate here, but what impact could this have on the private nurseries we have in this area catering for this age group already?</p>	<p>In December 2019, Luan's Little People, a pre-school provision based at The Parkgate Academy, closed down due to a fall in numbers. We had always maintained a good relationship with Luan's as children who attended there frequently moved onto our nursery as they turned 3 years old. The closure of this setting caused disappointment amongst a number of our parents as they were hoping to send their 2 year olds there.</p> <p>Most of these parents have kept their children at home with them rather than send them to an alternative pre-school in Ollerton. They have frequently reported to me that the prices of other providers prevent them from attending – Luan's was significantly cheaper.</p> <p>Furthermore, the most recent data relating to 2 year olds shows that just under 20% of children entitled to 15 hours childcare are not currently taking up the offer.</p> <p>Taking this evidence into consideration, particularly when you consider the housing developments currently under construction in the local area, I feel that our pre-school would have limited, if any, impact on other pre-school provision.</p>
Transition into school	<p>Our daughter is due to attend the nursery as soon as you re-open, and our son will be 2 in November. It would be fantastic to be able to send them to the same setting.</p> <p>Our son attended Luans Little People. It help with the transition into nursery. I hope to send his little brother once he turns 2.</p> <p>I think it be a great idea to lower the age. I have always found that children who start mixing at a young age</p>	

	<p>seem to adapt better when moving up to the next learning year if that makes sense? Go for it. Seems like a fantastic idea - you're doing amazing!</p> <p>I'm writing to let you know that I think it's an amazing idea to lower the age to preschool age. I wanted my little girl to attend Luan's preschool but closed before she was old enough. She turns two in July.</p> <p>All my family's kids have all gone to Luan's and they all loved it. Lowering your school age would be perfect for me and my little girl as your school is also our first pick for when she starts proper nursery and full time school.</p> <p>The idea that he can be in the same setting from 2 to 11, I think it is great as it means they can get used to the same surroundings and also to the children they will spend their school life with, fingers crossed they get a place when applying for full time school.</p>	
<p>Reputation of The Parkgate Academy</p>	<p>I am replying to you in my capacity as a Town Councillor and from what I have seen on the visits I have made to the school in the last couple of years.</p> <p>I support the proposal.</p> <p>The progress in the last few years has been astonishing. The children are enthusiastic, respond well to the teachers and take an active part in all school activities. It appears to be a happy school and extremely well run.</p> <p>There can be no doubt in my mind that under its present management the school and its anticipated expansion will continue to thrive and to provide a good service to the new pupils.</p> <p>Thanks for the letter as you already know I think it's a brilliant idea and can't wait for my daughter to start as soon as you are up and running.</p>	

	<p>Carry on the amazing job you and all your staff are doing and thanks for all the help and support you all give me and my children.</p> <p>Agree strongly. I may not be there as of September but I have friends and family this could well benefit. If you run the nursery like the rest of the school Mr. Nunn and the rest of the team then it will thrive. No doubt about it. Keep up the great work</p>	
<p>Funded places and cost effectiveness</p>	<p>Would this only be available to parents that get the funding for 2 year olds ? If not do you have prices in mind to make it affordable for the parents that don't get the funding?</p> <p>My little boy is 2 at the end of April, he currently attends an alternative provision, but for us financially it is rather expensive and we wouldn't qualify for 2 year funding so if you were competitive in price this would be a big thumbs up from me.</p> <p>I also understand that you will be offering private places too that I presume will be offered at very competitive prices and heavily subsidised by the School creating an unfair playing field</p>	<p>If we gain approval for this venture, we will be offering both funded and private places. Our pricing strategy will be competitive – rather than create an 'unfair playing field', I feel that our ability to provide lower cost childcare due to the fact that we are a non-profit organisation will be beneficial to the local community.</p>

Thank you to everyone who took the time to give their views.

Kind regards



Mark Nunn