

Marlborough St Mary's CE Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Dan Crossman

Ducks Meadow, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 4BX

Tel: 01672 513101

Email: admin@marlboroughstmarys.wilts.sch.uk



Marlborough St Mary's Nursery Consultation Response

Dear stakeholders,

Marlborough St Mary's undertook a consultation in relation to the proposal to combine St Mary's Under Fives pre-school and Marlborough St Mary's Primary School to create one educational setting.

The written consultation ran from Monday 17th – Tuesday 9th December 2025 and the identified consultee groups were:

- Parents and carers of pupils at the settings
- Staff working at the settings
- Governors and Trustees from both settings
- Diocesan Board of Education
- Local Authority
- Local schools who might be affected or have an opinion on the change
- Local residents

The consultation was undertaken through an open meeting for all stakeholder groups, emails, letters, social media and online Form responses.

In addition to written approval from the Local Authority and the diocese of Salisbury, the consultation received:

- **32** responses in total from stakeholder groups.
- **9** of the responses were from school and pre-school staff, trustees and governors relating to the operations of the proposed model. Some of these responses are confidential to the staff of the settings and will be explored as part of the next phase, should the proposal be granted by the Department for Education (DfE).
- **23** responses were from non-staff consultees and these are set out below for transparency.
- Wiltshire Council considered this proposal and they have given written approval. The creation of the nursery is subject to Department for Education (DfE) approval.
- **2** 'not sure' responses.
- **2** non-specific objections to the proposal.

The responses for the proposal were positive, so an application was made to the Department for Education to seek approval for this change. If the DFE approves of the bid in April 2026, the nursery will open in its new setting in September 2027.

We are very grateful for your engagement in this process and for your support for the next exciting phase of development. Giving children the best possible start in life, and supporting the community, remain the ultimate goals of this project.

If you have any queries in relation to the information contained in this letter, please contact the school office or admin@marlboroughstmarys.wilts.sch.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Dan Crossman Louise Barry & Dan Knight

Headteacher *Co-chairs of Governors*

10.12.2025

Consultation Responses

- 32 people responded to the consultation
- 88% respondents (28 people) were in favour of the proposal
- 12% respondents (4 people) were “not sure”

Below, positive feedback is listed according to category and beneath that are answers to specific questions/comments raised in the consultation.

1. Wraparound Care/Longer nursery hours

38% of respondents thought this would be a significant advantage and comments include:

“Wrap around care means that working families can have greater flexibility of childcare. It's an excellent idea.”

“Currently, there no provision within the town for care within a nursery setting for anyone that doesn't drive”

2. Early intervention and support for families

22% of respondents thought this would be a significant advantage and comments include:

“This integration will allow us to identify children's needs earlier and provide timely support for families”

“Having space available for other support agencies to work will benefit many in the town who would otherwise need to travel out of town for advice / support”

3. Supporting transition into school

44% of respondents thought this would be a significant advantage and comments include:

“Children attending nursery at St Mary's will be used to the site, and place and will make moving up to school an easy transition.”

“Children will benefit from a familiar environment, and this makes integration easier when they are due to attend primary school”

“This will create a seamless experience for children, ensuring consistency in routines and learning from the earliest stage”

4. Sharing community facilities and resources

47% of respondents thought this would be a significant advantage and comments include:

“Great use of existing facilities”

“More opportunities for families & children”

5. Continuous curriculum and shared values

28% of respondents thought this would be a significant advantage and comments include:

“It will mean the children will be able to be provided with a curriculum that will move through all key stages. The children will become known from their attendance at pre-school and their needs and abilities can be well supported throughout”

“Overall, this proposal will benefit children through continuity and improved outcomes”

6. Positive impact upon the community and the neighbourhood

22% of respondents thought this would be a significant advantage and comments include:

“Improve the nursery building”

“A longer nursery day may actually alleviate some of the traffic issues, despite the increase in headcount, by spreading pickup times to be outside of the usual 'school rush' time.”

Finally, feedback was overwhelming positive and comments included:

“I am 100% behind this proposal and fully support the exciting opportunities it will bring for our children, families, and community”

“Bringing the Pre-school and School together feels like a natural and positive step”

“Fantastic idea”

“I have no idea why people would resist this proposal!”

Question raised/comment*	Response
Will there be a compulsory uniform for nursery pupils?	It is not the school's intention to make uniform compulsory. If families would prefer their children to wear a uniform, an affordable option will be available.
How long it would take to implement?	If the DFE approves of the bid in April 2026 , the nursery will open in its new setting by September 2027
Where will it be located?	The nursery will be located in the current St Mary's Under Fives building which will be extended and refurbished.
How will the transition period for the children be managed?	If the bid for DFE funding is successful, the pre-school children and staff will be accommodated inside the school whilst the Under Fives building is refurbished: the children will benefit from being supported by the same staff.
Will the children's funding remain the same?	The funding will remain in line with current arrangements and government guidelines. Families can access the information they need from https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/child-care
How will spaces be allocated?	The children who currently attend St Mary's Under Fives will retain their space. Like the school, the nursery will have an Admissions Policy that will ensure that the additional spaces are allocated fairly and transparently.
Will there be a waiting list?	The school will operate a waiting list, in accordance with the Admissions Policy.
Is there a scope for more of a children's centre approach?	The school's ambition has always been to offer a holistic, family-centred approach. Therefore, the new nursery premises will have a space dedicated to accommodating professionals who can offer targeted advice and support.
What will the impact be on parking?	From September 2027, as the proposal is to add just 8 nursery places, a noticeable increase in traffic is not expected. The offer of wraparound care is expected to reduce congestion at the start and end of the school day. All staff will use the school's existing car park.
Who will monitor nursery provision?	Like school, the new nursery will be subjected to the usual monitoring processes and accountability measures. Ofsted,

	Wiltshire Local Authority, Salisbury Diocese, and Senior Leaders will ensure that the children are accessing their entitlement and that provision is of the highest quality. A member of Marlborough St Mary's Governing body will have responsibility for the nursery, and they will report on provision and its outcome.
How will this project affect the school, given the existing demands on school staff, especially TAs and the SENCo?	In order to assure themselves that this project would not negatively affect existing provision, Marlborough St Mary's governors created a Business Plan to evidence that costs (in time, money and staffing) could be met from the school's existing, and expected, resources.
How will the school manage the Senior leaders' time, especially at point of setting up the service?	If granted by the DfE, the creation of a school-based nursery will bring new and exciting opportunities and challenges for both St Mary's Under Fives pre-school and Marlborough St Mary's Primary School. Therefore, plans to address and manage the changes without additional impact on staff and leaders are being created. The staggered increase in pupil numbers and the anticipated length of the project will enable senior leaders to make timely, well-conceived decisions.
How will this impact other local nursery provision?	In order to proceed with the bid to the DFE, the school had to secure Wiltshire Council's approval of the project by assuring them that the proposal would not be to the detriment of local settings.

**Please note that some statements made may have been rephrased into questions.*