



16.01.2025

Dear parents, carers and the wider community

Livingstone Academy Bournemouth is undertaking a consultation period to expand our provision to include a 3-4 year old Nursery provision.

The proposal is to use existing school building space to repurpose some unused internal space in order to offer 30 spaces for children between 3-4 years old. Depending on the initial interest and success of the provision, we may look to expand this to 60 spaces.

Livingstone Academy is part of Aspirations Academies Trust: a successful academy trust leading 16 academies to good outcomes and Ofsted inspections. Livingstone Academy is an all-through academy (4-18), which includes a two-form entry primary school that will provide education for 420 pupils from the ages of 4 -11, and a five-form secondary school that will provide education for 750 pupils. Livingstone Academy will run a sixth form provision with initial proposals for 120 pupils, totalling 1290 pupils. The Department for Education currently states our capacity as 1510. By offering an additional 30 nursery spaces, this would not exceed our DfE agreed school capacity of 1510 and therefore we would not need to increase this capacity.

### **Why are we proposing to expand our provision to include a 3 - 4 Year old Nursery and how will it benefit our pupils and local community?**

Currently, we are a highly popular choice for local families. We are at full capacity in current year groups and have an extensive waiting list for both primary and secondary entry. As an OFSTED rated Outstanding Early Years provider, we are seeing the positive impact on our children and families who join us in Reception. However, our current pupils come from a range of private nursery settings in the local area that span quite a distance from the academy and have varying levels of quality in provision. We would like to extend our outstanding Early Years provision further so that our families can join us sooner, having a positive impact on our community and further improve the entry to school experiences for our families.

### **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 existing nurseries. 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 Livingstone Academy is in a very strong position to extend its current Ofsted rated outstanding 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 education in our local community.

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

- We are an Ofsted rated outstanding Early Years provider (April, 2024):
  - 'All aspects of school life support pupils' character and wider development. Staff nurture pupils and know them well. Consequently, pupils flourish.'
  - 'In the early years, children have a very strong recall of what they have already learned. The activities that they do help them to practise new knowledge and skills repeatedly in a way that they find enjoyable.'
  - 'The early years curriculum excites children and prepares them very well for key stage 1. They are eager to write about what they are learning and proudly show their work to others.'
  - 'Children in the early years learn to read with fluency and confidence. The school provides parents with high quality information so that they can support their children at home. Younger pupils love reading and being read to. Pupils of any age who do not read well enough get appropriate support to catch up.'
  - 'From early years onwards the school makes sure that pupils learn that they can be anything they want to be.'
- 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.
- 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.
- We have designed 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 and a trained Speech and Language practitioner works across the school.
- All pupils in EYFS are assessed using the NELI 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 repurpose an unused part of the Gold building, the old courthouse building next to the current primary building. The internal space will be turned into nursery classrooms and part of the courtyard area will be turned into an outdoor learning area for the nursery. There is direct access from the primary entrance gate to the nursery.

### **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 Thursday 16th January 2025 to Thursday 30th January 2025 and we invite you to email with any questions and responses to [office@livingstone-aspirations.org](mailto:office@livingstone-aspirations.org)

Yours sincerely

Mr Loren Tharme  
Principal