

Information leaflet



Following the closure of an externally managed school nursery in 2019, we would like to re-open a nursery provision, managed by the school, for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old. This is in response to our community and many families who have identified the need for this type of provision in our area. The proposed opening date for the nursery is September 2022.

Why do we want to lower the age range of children attending Crawley Ridge Infant School to 2 years old?

- We can offer quality first nursery teaching by qualified teachers.
- Currently children join our Reception class from a variety of different nurseries and we would like to provide a consistent start from nursery that blends seamlessly into Reception class, where staff know the children so well that development is not hampered by transition so the needs of pupils can be met effectively and ensure equal opportunities for all children.
- To impact positively on children's early development.
- To establish a smooth transition from nursery into Reception and maximise learning opportunities.
- Every child is an individual and develops at their own pace. It is essential that additional learning needs are identified early, and support put in place. The school SENCO who works closely with a range of agencies will spend time in the nursery observing children and working collaboratively with staff.
- A possible attendance pattern that the nursery may offer is based on the 2.5-day model or 30 hours. This will give parents/carers an opportunity to return to work or further education and training.
- The nursery will be part of the school community and have the opportunity to use the school's resources such as the library, sporting equipment, vast outside learning environments.

How many pupils will be there?

It is proposed that we would initially offer a total of 52 sessions* for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds (although this may change depending on the needs of our community and the number of families entitled to 30 funded hours) from September 1st, 2022.

**Full-time children account for 2 sessions per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.*

What age children will we admit?

2, 3 and 4 years old.

What style of teaching will we use?

The teaching in the nursery will be driven by the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and safeguarding the children will be of paramount importance. We will timetable plenty of discovery, free flow and child led activities that incorporate a range of exploration, experimentation and opportunities for age-appropriate risk taking. It is likely that the nursery will follow Anna Ephgrave's scheme of work called 'In the moment planning'. This allows for children to lead their own learning based upon their own interests.

Additional information

Would there be a negative impact on local schools and nurseries?

All local schools, nurseries and other interested clubs and groups have been informed of the nursery proposal and are invited to share their thoughts through communication with the school. As a school, we have received many enquiries regarding our proposal and the need for children to join our school from the age of three or younger.

Would there be an impact on parking and traffic in the immediate area?

We anticipate that many of the children that would attend the nursery would be those with siblings already at Crawley Ridge Infant School. Our school had a nursery for many years before 2019 and traffic surveys conducted made no recommendations for change. However, if the consultation highlights traffic as an area of concern we will employ the specialist services of a traffic consultant to help us manage this issue.

Does the school have sufficient expertise?

Yes, we believe we do. We are committed to utilising all the resources available to us to ensure the nursery meets and exceeds the expectations of all involved. We already have a team of passionate, dedicated staff in our school, and we will also be able to draw upon the expertise from the following:

- Headteacher with many years' experience leading state nurseries.
- The Alliance Multi-Academy Trust
- Local schools and nurseries
- Surrey County Council Early Years team

Is there enough time for the nursery to open in September 2022?

A timeline for opening the nursery in September 2022 has been drawn up and will be closely monitored by senior leaders, the Trust and the governing body. The Alliance Multi-Academy Trust are brilliant at implementing changes quickly, thoroughly and professionally. We are confident that this is an achievable goal.

Will a child that goes to the nursery automatically get a place at Crawley Ridge Infant School?

Parents of nursery aged children would need to apply in the normal way for admission to the infant school (Reception years and older). However, it is our intention that our nursery admissions criteria will closely mirror the school's policy which will increase the likelihood of a child that attends our nursery also getting a place at our school for Reception.

What will the start and finishing time be?

This will depend on the information we gather from our questionnaires and will be decided at a later date.

Will the nursery operate before and after the school's current hours?

At present we are hoping to get an idea of demand for an extended day from the questionnaires. Should this be something that the majority of interested parents would like, we will investigate the possibility further.

How will the nursery be accessed?

We already have the facilities for a nursery as we had a nursery prior to 2019. The nursery has its own access for parents and children – this will allow part time children to enter and exit the nursery throughout the school day.

How will the nursery benefit a child when they transition to Crawley Ridge Infant School?

We will have a better knowledge of the children as they move into our school. They will feel more confident being here. The big step of starting school will be a less daunting experience for children and parents alike. Any additional needs or requirements that particular children may have, are identified earlier to ensure that support is available at the earliest opportunity.