



17th June 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors, and Members of the Local Community,

Bowes Primary School: Community Consultation – Proposal to Open a Two-Year-Old Provision

Bowes Primary School is committed to delivering the highest quality education and care for the children and families within our community. As part of our ongoing dedication to supporting local families and ensuring every child receives the best possible start in life, we are launching a consultation on a proposal to establish a dedicated provision for two-year-old children at our school.

The proposed provision will seamlessly complement the school's existing three-year-old nursery, creating a continuous, high-quality early years pathway for young children. Designed to offer funded places for eligible two-year-olds, the provision is intended to open in **September 2026**, subject to the outcomes of this consultation and final approval.

We value our community's perspective and warmly invite all stakeholders to share their views before any final decisions are made.

Why Are We Proposing a Two-Year-Old Provision?

1. Giving Children the Best Possible Start

Extensive research demonstrates that high-quality early education has a profound, positive impact on a child's long-term development. Children who access structured early learning from the age of two consistently benefit from:

- Stronger communication and language skills.
- Enhanced confidence and personal independence.
- Accelerated social and emotional development.
- Greater readiness for Nursery and Reception environments.
- Improved academic outcomes throughout their primary education.

By providing an enriched early years environment, we can ensure every child arrives at school fully equipped to learn, grow, and thrive.

2. Supporting Working Families

Recognising that local families need affordable, premium childcare and early education, this new provision will:

- Increase the availability of local, high-quality childcare places.
- Provide robust support for working parents and carers.
- Reduce travel times and streamline morning drop-offs for busy families.
- Offer continuity of care and education within a single, familiar setting.
- Help families access and maximise government-funded childcare entitlements.

As government-funded childcare entitlements continue to expand nationally, schools play a vital role in meeting this rising local demand.

3. Creating a Smooth Educational Journey

Introducing a two-year-old provision establishes a completely seamless transition through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Based within our existing nursery building, the provision will feature a dedicated, custom-designed learning and play space meticulously tailored to the developmental needs of two-year-olds.

Furthermore, children will have structured opportunities to integrate with the three-year-old nursery provision where appropriate. This blended approach supports smooth transitions, social development, and educational continuity, while allowing children to benefit from:

- Familiar surroundings, routines, and expectations.
- Strong, trusting relationships with dedicated school staff.
- Consistent, unified approaches to early learning and development.
- Stress-free transitions into subsequent Nursery and Reception classes.

This continuous care model significantly reduces transition anxiety, helping children settle quickly and happily into school life.

4. Improving School Readiness

Nationally, schools are noting an increase in the number of children entering Reception with highly varied levels of language, communication, and social development. A dedicated two-year-old provision provides a proactive opportunity to:

- Identify and address individual developmental needs much earlier.
- Target and support speech and language development.
- Promote positive behaviour, empathy, and healthy social interactions.
- Cultivate natural curiosity, creativity, and self-confidence.

Timely early intervention acts as a powerful foundation for a child's future academic and personal success.

5. Early Support for Children with Additional Needs

An early years provision allows our specialised staff to recognise and support children who may have emerging special educational needs (SEN) at the earliest possible stage. Key advantages include:

- Accelerated assessment and tailored early intervention.
- Cohesive, supportive partnerships between families and educators.
- Direct and swift access to specialist external support services.
- Significantly improved long-term outcomes for children requiring additional support.

6. Strengthening Community Connections

We are proud of our place at the heart of the community. This new provision will deepen those bonds by:

- Supporting local families from the absolute earliest stages of their child's educational journey.
- Cultivating strong relationships with parents well before their children enter formal Nursery or Reception.
- Creating new avenues for collaborative family learning and parental engagement.
- Enhancing overall community cohesion and mutual support.

7. A Premium Early Years Environment

The proposed facility will be intentionally curated to provide:

- Safe, stimulating, and age-appropriate indoor and outdoor learning spaces.
- Highly qualified and experienced early years practitioners.
- A bespoke curriculum specifically tailored to the unique developmental milestones of two-year-olds, focusing heavily on learning through play, exploration, communication, and nurturing relationships.
- Rigorous safeguarding and child welfare protocols.

Eligible families will be fully supported in accessing funded places within this premium environment.

8. Long-Term Financial Sustainability

A thriving two-year-old provision actively contributes to the long-term resilience and financial health of Bowes Primary School by:

- Increasing projected pupil numbers over time.
- Optimising the utility and efficiency of existing school facilities.
- Generating additional funding streams that will be directly reinvested into resources, facilities, and enriched educational opportunities for all pupils across the school.

All financial forecasting will ensure that this provision is entirely self-sustaining and carries no negative impact on existing school services.

Summary of Benefits

Benefits for Children	Benefits for Families
• Accelerated communication and language development.	• Significantly increased access to local childcare places.
• Early building blocks for friendships and social confidence.	• Convenient, localised wraparound care options where available.
• Enriched discovery through structured, play-based learning.	• Enhanced educational continuity and peace of mind.
• Growth in personal independence and emotional resilience.	• Early, strong working relationships with school staff.
• Direct access to exceptional, professional early years teaching.	• Seamless, anxiety-free transitions into Nursery and Reception.
• Early familiarity and comfort with the school environment.	

Next Steps: How to Share Your Views

We are keen to gather comprehensive feedback from all stakeholders before finalising our plans. We welcome your thoughts, insights, and perspectives regarding:

- The overall proposal to introduce the two-year-old provision.
- Any potential benefits or specific challenges you believe we should consider.
- Your feedback is invaluable and will directly inform the school's final strategic decisions.

Submission Details

Please submit your comments, questions, or feedback via email to:

Email: office@bowesprimary.org

Consultation Deadline: Tuesday 7 July 2026 at Noon

Please Note: All responses received by the deadline will be thoroughly reviewed and carefully considered before a final decision is made by the Connect Education Trust Board.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation and for your continued support of Bowes Primary School.

Together, we will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for the children and families in our community.

Rebecca Moore

Headteacher

