**Statutory Consultation on Proposed Change to Admission Arrangements for (insert date)**

Dear Headteacher/Nursery/Owner/Parent/Carer,

Insert name of school is consulting on a proposal to lower the age limit of admissions to the school nursery to allow admission of two year old children.

In line with Government Guidance the school is required to carry out a 4 week consultation on this proposal.

We are therefore writing to you to advise you of this proposal.

We would appreciate if you would take the time to read the consultation document and provide us with your views

**Consultation dates**

Opening date of the Consultation period : insert date

Closing date of the Consultation period: insert date

**Reasons for the proposal**

All 3& 4 year olds are currently eligible for up to 15 hours of free early education per week. 3&4 year olds from working families are entitled to up to 30 hours per week. Some 2 year old’s in receipt of certain benefits and those who meet additional eligibility criteria such as being in care or having special educational needs are also entitled to up to 15 hours per week.

The Government announced in its spring budget 2023 that in addition to the current free early education entitlements the entitlement would be expanded in phases between April 2024 and September 2025 as follows:

* Commencing from April 2024, a provision of 15 hours of free early learning and childcare will be made available to eligible working parents of 2-year-olds.
* Effective from September 2024, a provision of 15 hours of free early learning and childcare will be made available to eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and older.
* Starting from September 2025, a substantial enhancement will be implemented, granting eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to primary school age access to 30 hours of free early learning and childcare.

Waltham Forest Council has identified that as a result of the expansion of the free early learning and childcare offer there are some areas of the Borough where families are finding it difficult to access their place and/or are not able to access free early education and childcare places on the day and times that they require.

Waltham Forest Council have also informed us that not all of the lower income families with 2-year-old children in the locality who are eligible for a free early education place for up to 15 hours per week are able to access a place.

As our nursery is currently not operating at full capacity, we would like to lower our admission age in order to offer these places to meet the needs of our community.

Therefore, we are proposing to extend our intake age in our nursery from 2 to 4 year olds. Places will be available from X am to X pm Monday to Friday during term-time which we believe will compliment the full daycare all year round offer from early years colleagues offering Ofsted registered childcare provision in the locality and offer parents/carers a wider choice.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

Consultation Questions

I am (please select one option):

A parent/carer with child currently attending the school

A parent/carer with child that is not currently attending the school

A representative from a DfE Registered school

A representative from an Ofsted registered childcare provider

Other (please specify)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you agree with the lowering of the age limit of admissions to two year olds in (insert date)?

Yes / No

Comments: