



**Eynsham Pre-School**  
Beech Road, Eynsham  
OX29 4LJ

**Eynsham Community Primary School**  
Beech Road, Eynsham  
OX29 4LJ

**Eynsham Partnership Academy Trust**  
Witney Road, Eynsham  
OX29 4AP

6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## **Consultation:**

### **Proposed Merger of Eynsham Pre-school with Eynsham Community Primary School**

With a Good OFSTED rating, stable finances, and a growing waiting list of children wishing to join, the Trustees at Eynsham Pre-school (EPS) are considering how best to sustain and future proof EPS, and continue to best serve its local community, children, parents, and staff, both now and in the future.

The Trustees core aims are to ensure that:

- Existing and future children's places at the Pre-school remain secure and sustainable.
- Pre-school continues to offer the excellent education and support that it's proud to provide.
- Staff continue their relationships with their key children, without interruption.
- Staff continue to work under the supervision of Jackie Taylor, Eynsham Pre-school Manager.

To this end, the Trustees have formally applied to join Eynsham Partnership Academy Trust (EPA), with the aim of transferring the charity and business administration to the EPA Trust. This request has been accepted subject to external consultation. In further discussion with Eynsham Community Primary School (ECPS), who are already in the EPA Trust, it is proposed that the two schools unite in their aims and provision. This will provide continuity of care from age 2 to 5 years. This letter outlines that proposal and invites you to contribute to a consultation that will take place.

### **Context and Background**

EPS has been supporting the local community for over 50 years and has existed on its current site since 1976. It received a 'Good' OFSTED grading in November 2019. Numbers have remained consistent over many years, with a limit to 24 children per session. Pupils aged from 2 to 5 years benefit from the school ethos of encouraging independence, self-confidence, and caring for themselves and others in a stimulating, play-led environment. At such an important time in their development, EPS provides a wide range of learning opportunities in a safe and encouraging environment, fully preparing them for the next stage in their educational journey.

However, EPS is a small charity, run by a committee of volunteer parents, and EPS has been susceptible to changes in external funding and environmental factors over recent years. In looking to the future, and the longer-term resilience of the Pre-school, EPS trustees have sought to form a strong partnership with the EPA Trust and ECPS.

The Trustees believe that joining the EPA Trust and merging with ECPS will bring long term benefits and ensure that EPS continues to thrive and serve the local community. This is a relationship that can benefit all the children, especially those that later apply to join ECPS at age 5.

### **Proposal**

We propose that EPS merge with ECPS and that all children on the EPS roll move to the ECPS roll. ECPS will need to lower its age range to 2 to 11 years to accommodate this proposal. There will be no change to the location of EPS, the staff who work at the pre-school, or existing key children/staff relationships.



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While there might be minor movement in certain age ranges between EPS and ECPS, all pupils at EPS will continue to be on roll. Staff at EPS will be retained in their current positions and their contracts will transfer to the EPA trust. This proposal is fully supported by the local authority, Oxford County Council.

#### **How will this suggested change help?**

Sharing knowledge across the EPS and ECPS staffing teams will benefit all children. It will utilise the wealth of expertise that our highly qualified and experienced EPS staff have to offer, to benefit as many children as possible, whilst ensuring best practice through all age groups.

It will provide greater continuity in both care and education as children progress from Pre-school through to Foundation years. Knowledge about the children's development, progress and needs (especially those with medical or additional support needs) can be shared and built on at each stage of their education. Children will benefit from a wider range of professionals who will be available to give specific advice, such as the school nursing team.

#### **Timings**

The consultation commences on 10<sup>th</sup> January and will run for 6 weeks until 22<sup>nd</sup> February. During that period, if Covid allows, there will be a meeting (in person or zoom) to share and discuss these plans. Following consultation feedback, a request will be made to the Department for Education to change the age range of ECPS and accept the EPS children onto the ECPS roll. Our plan is to make this change in April/May 2022 and we will keep parents and stakeholders informed.

#### **What to do next by when**

Have your say by writing to Eynsham Pre-school, Beech Road, Eynsham OX29 4LJ or by emailing [committee@eynshampreschool.org](mailto:committee@eynshampreschool.org) by midday on the 22nd February and/or come to the meeting (details to be sent out later). All of the information from the responses will be collated, summarised and sent to the Department for Education as part of the case for change. This is a normal part of this process.

#### **Summary**

We very much hope that the community will support this proposal and look forward to hearing your views.

Kind regards

Jackie Taylor  
Manager, Eynsham Pre-school

Nicola Wilson,  
Committee Chair, Eynsham Pre-school