

Consultation on change of age range to allow for spaces for Under 4's at Thurlton Primary School from September 2026

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to discuss proposed changes to the provision at Thurlton Primary School for under 4's which requires a lowering of the schools age range by 1 year. The Governing Body of the school has decided that it should consult on the proposed changes in line with legal requirements and wishes to receive the views and comments of stakeholders of the school.

The consultation period will run for 4 weeks from **Wednesday 14th October 2026** to **Wednesday 11th November 2026**.

The Governing Body of the school will consider all comments received during the consultation period. We are consulting with all relevant stakeholders as required by law when making changes to school age range arrangements.

What change is being proposed?

Currently the school takes children into the Reception Class at the start of school year after their fourth birthday. All younger children attend

From April 2027 we are proposing lowering our school's age range to 3 years. This will make the schools age range 3-11 years, rather than the current 4-11 years.

Please note that there is no change proposed to our determined admissions arrangements. The school's determined admission arrangements for school entry in September 2027 remain unchanged and there is no change to the fact that a nursery place does not in any way guarantee a place at the school, as is documented on our admissions policy on our web site.

Why is the school making this change?

Will the proposed change result in any impact on current provision?

From April 2027 we intend the new provision to reflect the model in that the older children will be prioritised in the morning, with the option of additional afternoon sessions in line with the introduction of the 30 hours funding <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/free-childcare-and-learning/free-childcare-for-working-parents-of-3-and-4-year-olds> . The proposed sessions will run from 9.00 – 12.00 and 12.15 – 3.15 Monday to Friday term-time only.

Will the proposed change result in additional traffic near the school at drop off and pick up times?

There should not be any significant impact on peak time traffic at the school, as the provision is for local families who usually walk and will be predominantly for siblings already at the school. Due to the size of the school, it is unlikely there would be a significant increase in traffic to the school site.

What will the impact be of providers of nursery provision locally?

Thurlton Pre-School closed permanently at the end of the summer term 2026. GThere is currently no other pre-school/ nursery provision in the village and limited options for other provision for young children locally. We cannot foresee any impact on providers locally as there is currently no other provision in the local vicinity.

How can you ask questions, get more information & comment on the proposal?

Parents of current school pupils or any other interested parties can contact the head teacher, Jessica Balado, by email at head@thurlton.org with any questions or comments.

We will be allowing 4 weeks for receiving responses, so all responses must be received by **3.00pm on Wednesday 11th November 2026** to be considered by the Local Authority when making its decision.