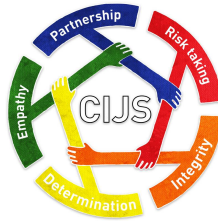


Chellaston Infant School



Business Plan

Proposal to lower the age range of Chellaston Infant School to 2-7 years of age from 1st September 2027.

Business Name: Chellaston Infant School
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Introduction

Chellaston Infant School is a maintained school situated on School Lane in Chellaston, Derby. The school currently has capacity for 270 statutory school age pupils.

Chellaston Infant School proposes to lower its age range to 2-7 years from 1st September 2027, enabling the school to open a small early years unit for 15 pupils and an additional nursery for 15 pupils. The proposal will not reduce space for the school's current provision; the proposal involves repurposing 2 unused school classrooms and unused school land to provide the additional space required on the school site.

The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed changes that are required at the school to enable a lowering of the school's age range, as well as setting out the positive and negative impact the lowering of the school's age range would have on the local area.

Aims and Business case

Chellaston Infant School currently operates a successful and popular school provision for 4 to 7 year olds. The provision works alongside the junior school to provide a seamless primary education as well as on-site wraparound childcare from 7.30 am until 6 pm.

The school would like the opportunity to educate these children from an even earlier stage, knowing the benefits that this can bring to a child's early education:

- Children able to start education at the age of 2 without needing to move to another setting after their early years and nursery education
- A smooth transition through the school for children starting from the age of 2.
- Closer working relationships between the staff working across the age range.

Further access to early support and interventions for those children with **Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)**, and children from **Disadvantaged** backgrounds.

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Since April 2024, 15 hours of free childcare for 2 year olds has been made available to eligible working families. This is in addition to the existing 15 hour free childcare provision for 2 year olds based on benefits related eligibility. From September 2025, the government committed to ensuring that eligible working parents/carers of 2 year olds can access 30 hours of free childcare for 38 weeks of the year. This commitment means more capacity is needed within the childcare sector to ensure sufficiency of places. Our proposal will support all of the above government initiatives for parents of 2 year olds.

The school has worked with the Derby Local Authority Early Years Lead and Place Planning Lead to look at sufficiency of places for 2-year-old childcare within in the local area.

Physical Space Requirements

The school has registered to be considered the *Department for Education* (DfE) 'School Based Nurseries (SBNs) Capital Grant Funding'. The DfE guidance for this capital grant states:

'This government is committed to expanding SBNs across England, with the SBN Capital Grant 2024 to 2025 marking the first stage in this long-term commitment. Our primary aim at this stage is to build more capacity into the early education sector by using surplus space in school buildings'

The school intends to repurpose an existing but unused reception classrooms already on the school site, along with the adjoining land to this building. Plans will involve remodeling the external layout alongside relandscaping of the outside space making it purposeful for early years education.

The school has been working with *Surveyors to Education* (s2e) to prepare the plans and application for the capital grant funding to the *Department for Education*. The plans are fully compliant with building regulations and the physical environment will be designed specifically for use with children aged 2 years and fully compliant with the expectation set out in the *Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework* (Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment).

Management and Staffing Requirements

- The school would directly manage the 2-year-old and nursery provision as an extension of the management of its current school provision.
 - The quality of education would be directly led by our Early Years Leadership Team
 - The operational management of the provision would be managed by our experienced School Business Management Team.
- The number of staff required to supervise the provision would vary dependent on the numbers of children accessing the provision. Staffing numbers would be set based on the ratio requirements set out in *Early*

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Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework alongside risk assessments for any additional needs pupils may have. The school has existing experience of ensuring the correct ratios of staff to pupils in early years. Sometimes ratios have to be adjusted on a daily basis.

- The school would directly employ the staff needed for the provision following the recruitment guidance set out by the Derby City Recruitment and Selection Policy. All new job descriptions would be job evaluated and would reflect job descriptions already being used within our Trust schools' nursery provision.
- Staffing qualifications vary based on the number of children accessing the provision as set out in the *Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework*. The school has existing experience of ensuring staff have the right qualifications for working with children in early years.
- Ongoing training would be given to staff as per the school's current training and professional development schedule.
- No additional staffing (administrative or premises staffing) would be needed other than the staff needed to directly supervise the children in the setting.

Experience and Ongoing Development

Chellaston Infant School has a leadership team who have previously operated a successful and popular nursery provision for 3-4 year olds. Therefore, the school has experience in providing nursery provision, has an in depth understanding of the requirements of the *Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework* and staff are suitably qualified to work with this age group.

In addition to this, Chellaston Infant School is part of the *East Midlands Education Trust which has a number of schools with early years and nursery provision*. This provides the school with direct support for ensuring quality early years education for pupils form a large network of schools and specialist advisors.

Impact of Provision

On existing school provision (Ages 4-7)

- There will be no changes to the current number of places available at the school for children aged 4-7.
- There will be no changes to the internal and external space that children currently have available to them.

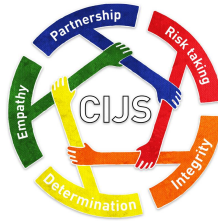
On existing employees

- There will be no impact on existing staff employed by the school. Staff will continue to be deployed as per their current job descriptions.

On local childcare providers, including childminders

- Our school has established and valued relationships with local providers of early years childcare, including for 2 year olds, and we intend to continue our relationships with local nurseries, schools and childminders.

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- Our intention is to continue to work with existing local childcare providers, as we already do, to ensure quality childcare provision is available to families within the local area.
- The school has already worked with the Local Authority to evaluate the suitability of the existing buildings to be repurposed for early years and nursery accommodation
- From September 2025, the government has committed to increasing its childcare for 2 year olds of eligible working families from 15 to 30 hours. With evidence showing there are a limited number of childcare places for 2 year olds currently vacant in the local area

On parents/carers

- This additional childcare provision in the local area will ensure more availability of places for 2 year olds, particularly in light of the governments commitment to increase childcare provision.
- This additional childcare provision will offer parents/carers more choice on childcare for 2 year old children.
- Better transition into Reception year because of the existing relationships and not needing to change settings.

On children

- Children who start the school from 2 years will be significantly advantaged educationally because of the smooth progression available to them through the school and not needing to change settings.
- This will be even more supportive to children with **SEND or children from Disadvantaged** backgrounds where consistency of provision and early intervention is crucial to a successful early years education.

On local residents

- The proposal involves an increase in 30 places at the school. The provision will operate in line with the school's existing provision and existing term and holiday patterns. The provision will require no additional or change of access to the school site.
- In order to reduce any impact on traffic and parking on streets local to the school, the start and end time of the 2-4 year old childcare provision will be staggered from the main school start and end times.