

# Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

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**Joyfully, unique in Jesus' family, we learn to use our special gifts  
to love, serve and make the world a better place**

24.3 2025

## **Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School Preschool Provision: Consultation Proposal**

### **Our Proposal**

This paper sets out a proposal to change the age range at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School. Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School currently provides for children aged 4-11. It is planned that from September 2025, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School will expand its age range from 4-11 to provide for children aged 2-11. This requires a formal change to lower the age range from 4 years to 2 years enabling the school to develop provision for a new pre-school for children aged 2-4 years.

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School has a long term plan for provision for children of preschool age. The first phase of the proposal is that Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School will offer places for children between the ages of 2 and 4 years from September 2025.

### **Why are we proposing this change now?**

Corpus Christi Pre-School, located next to Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School in Corpus Christi Parish Guildhall, will close and the provision will cease in its current form at the end of this academic year (July 2025). Therefore, we believe opening a new pre-school would be beneficial for the community and will enhance educational outcomes and support the holistic development of our local children.

### **Background**

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School is a 2-form entry Catholic Voluntary Aided School situated in the Boscombe East and Pokesdown area of BCP Council. The current Primary School was founded in 1888 and originally known as the Holy Cross School. The school became Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School in 1976.

The current Preschool provides sessional pre-school provision for up to 18 children per session for 2 - 4 year olds for the last 25 years. The building which has housed Corpus Christi Pre-School is adjacent to the school's early years Annexe.

### **Our Rationale**

**Early Childhood Development:** Research indicates that early childhood education significantly impacts cognitive, social, and emotional development. By lowering the age range, we can provide a structured

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learning environment for children from the age of three, fostering early development and preparing them for the primary curriculum.

**Continuity of Education:** The aim of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School will be for its Preschool provision, its staff, children and parents to be an integrated and inclusive part of the Primary School. The Pre-School will work collaboratively with the school EYFS team, under the Early Years Foundation stage and the school's strategic plan, to ensure best and consistent practice and enabling children attending to begin early preparations for beginning school.

**Parental Engagement:** The proposal further encourages greater parental involvement from an early stage. Engaged parents are more likely to continue their involvement throughout their child's education, positively impacting child outcomes.

**Demand for Preschool Places in the Local Area:** There is an existing need for this provision at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School as there are already children using the current provision at Corpus Christi preschool. There is also a shortage of Preschool providers and childcare in the area around the school.

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School is situated in the Boscombe East and Pokesdown area of BCP Council. Within a 1-mile radius of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School there are 16 providers not including Corpus Christi Preschool, which is closing in July. The closest providers are as follows:

Provider	Distance
Teddy's Pre-School	0.2
Tops Pokesdown	0.3
Woodland Day Nursery	0.3
Netanya Nature Pre-School	0.4
East Cliff Pre-School St James'	0.5
Cats Whiskers Day Nursery	0.6
Horizons Nursery	0.6
Carmela Coady Childcare	0.7
Fingers 'n' Thumbs Day Nursery	0.8
Little Pines Day Nursery	0.9
Muddy Boots Nursery School Bournemouth	0.9
Seaward Day Nursery	0.9
St Clements Nursery	0.9
Bears Hideaway Nursery	1.0
Park School Nursery	1.0
Sandcastle Nursery and Preschool	1.0

There are a total of 8 childminders in a 1 mile radius of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School.

## Our Plan for Implementation

**1. Places:** There will be up to 27 places per session, with morning and afternoon sessions available and the offer of a lunch club. The Pre-School would operate term time for 38 weeks of the year. Parents would be able to secure childcare for their child/ren between the hours of 8.45am and 2.45pm.

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**2. Accommodation:** All children will be based in the building which is currently occupied by the after school club in the mainschool 'Green centre' but will also make full use of the school's facilities, such as the playground, hall, and play equipment.

**3.Children currently on roll at Corpus Christi Preschool:** This proposal will mean that the children and their families who remain non-school aged, from September 2025, will be able to continue in a familiar location.

**4. Costs and Access to Government Funded Entitlements:** The school will support those children who are funded by the government with additional sessions above funded hours being available at a chargeable rate. Parents will also be asked to make a small voluntary contribution for consumables/additional activities.

**5. Early Years Foundation Stage – Curriculum Development:** Adults will be trained in developing meaningful relationships enabling the children to feel confident and ready for the next stage of their education. Our curriculum will be underpinned by the Characteristics of Learning and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. It will be well-planned and sequenced with a range of key activities planned to develop early language and mathematical skills, enrich children's social, moral and cultural development and to provide a sound basis for their next stage of education.

**6. Staff Training:** Pre-School staff will join the wider staff team for CPD and statutory training for example an annual Safeguarding update. There will be staff trained in food hygiene and all staff will have a paediatric First Aid qualification. In addition, the staffing below indicates the qualifications that the Pre-School staff will hold.

**7. Staff Ratios:** Corpus Christi Catholic Primary & Preschool will work with the recommended staff ratios:

- ☐ For children aged three and over in registered early years provision where a person with Qualified Teacher Status, Early Years Professional Status, Early Years Teacher Status or another suitable level 6 qualification is working directly with the children:
  - o There must be at least one member of staff for every 13 children
  - o At least one other member of staff must hold an approved level 3 qualification.
- ☐ For children aged two and over in registered early years provision where a person with Qualified Teacher Status, Early Years Professional Status, Early Years Teacher Status or another suitable level 6 qualification is not working directly with the children:
  - o There must be at least one member of staff for every eight children
  - o At least one other member of staff must hold an approved level 3 qualification
  - o At least half of all other staff must hold an approved level 2 qualification. [Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework, Published December 2023, Effective from January 2024]

**8. Policies and Practice:** Where appropriate, the established policies and practices of the school will be adopted by the Pre-School (child protection, safeguarding, health and safety etc). Other more specific policies would be reviewed to ensure they encompass both the EYFS provision and the Pre-School. Staff would also receive annual training such as safeguarding updates.

**9. Community Engagement:** The school is keen to continue to engage with parents and carers and all interested parties, answering questions, gathering feedback and addressing any concerns should they arise.

## Have Your Say

We are interested to hear the views and gather feedback from all interested parties. If you wish to respond to this consultation, please do so in writing via email: [susan.solly@cccpschool.com](mailto:susan.solly@cccpschool.com)

**All responses to this consultation should be sent by the closing date of Monday 21st April 12 midday.**

Additionally, we are holding a drop in session so that interested parties can learn more about the proposal and ask questions. The event will be held on Thursday 3rd April 2025 between 9am to 11am in Corpus Christi Primary School. All are welcome to come along to find out more.

We welcome your feedback and look forward to your support in this exciting new venture. This consultation has been made available to the following groups:

- Parents/carers of children that currently attend Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School
- Staff at the school
- Corpus Christi pre-School staff
- Portsmouth Diocese
- Other schools in the BCP Council area
- Other childcare providers in the local area
- Childminders in the local area
- Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council
- The Governing Body of the school