PROPOSAL FOR A NURSERY PROVISION AT ST. THOMAS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Notice is given that ST Thomas’ C.E. Primary School. Huddersfield Road, Newhey. Rochdale.OL16 3QZ intends to change the age range of the school to add a nursery class.**

1. The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the

Proposals:

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| Governing Board: *St Thomas’ C.E. Primary school*Address: The Governing Board, *St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School, Huddersfield Road, Newhey. Rochdale. OL16 3QZ*Date of Publication of Proposals for Consultation: *Wednesday 18th December 2024* |

1. The name, address and category of the school that is proposed to be altered:

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| Address: St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School, Huddersfield Road, Newhey. Rochdale Ol16 3QZCategory of school: Voluntary Aided Primary School |

1. The date in which the proposed changes will take effect in terms of both the buildings and additional place provisions:

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| *1st September 2025* |

1. The place to which representations can be made, and by when:

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| *Any person can make representations on the proposal by using the following link to the consultation page* *on the school website* [*https://www.stthomasce.rochdale.sch.uk/page/about-us/18607*](https://www.stthomasce.rochdale.sch.uk/page/about-us/18607) *or by sending them by 29th January 2025 to: office@stthomasnewhey.co.uk or by writing to St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School, Huddersfield Road, Newhey. Rochdale. OL16 3QZ**or* *Any person can make representations on the proposal by using the following link to the council consultation website at:* \*\*\* insert link to consultation \*\*\*  *or by sending them by 29th January 2025 to St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School, Huddersfield Road, Newhey. Rochdale. OL16 3QZ* |

1. What is proposed?

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| *The proposal is to the addition of a 15 FTE nursery class at St Thomas’ C.E. Primary School Newhey from 1st September 2025* |

1. School capacity and places- current pupil numbers and admissions- (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made:

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| Maintained nursery settings are based on school sites. They offer teacher-supported learning through play - based around the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for 3-4-year-olds prior to their entry into school. This proposal presents an exciting opportunity to offer high-quality education to 3-4-year-olds on-site with the added benefit of enabling a seamless transition into full time education at St Thomas’ Church of England Church Primary School. St Thomas’ is a mainstream Primary school and has 125 pupils on roll from Reception to Year 6 based on the Oct 2024 school census. The current age range of the children is 4-11 and does not include a nursery. *The school has recently consulted on a reduction of its PAN from 21 to 15 with effect from September 2026 and subsequent admissions. This is as a result of falling rolls and low birth rates in the locality. As a result, the school has additional capacity to extend its EYFS offer through the addition of a 15 FTE place 3-year-old provision.*  |

1. Why do we want to make the change(s)?

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| Reasons for the addition of a 15 FTE nursery class.This provision will contribute to the Local Authority’s Early Help agenda, in a part of the borough where levels of deprivation are high. The objectives and benefits to the school and children of the Nursery Class are as follows: * To facilitate better transition for the children.
* The school currently takes from a number of different settings which does not allow for efficient transfer of information and can lead to social and emotional difficulties when settling in to their new school.
* Early identification of vulnerable groups. This will mean that the needs of new children can be identified as early as possible.
* Early identification of speech and language difficulties that can be addressed earlier.
* Consistent baseline data. This will improve standards and outcomes for children because time saved on transition logistics will be spent on providing for their needs.
* There will be continuity of provision which will reflect the ethos and culture of the school.
* Current parents have expressed as desire for a nursery on the premises
* Developing strong and effective parental links from the earliest possible opportunity.
* Standards throughout school will be raised because older children will have opportunities to interact with younger children.
* Ease of access for families who already know and trust the school.
* The reduction of PAN and addition of a Nursery provision will enable the School to set its class structure moving forward which will in turn bolster our curriculum and avoid future uncertainty due to constant changes in class/Key Stage mixes which was identified as an area of weakness in the School’s most recent OFSTED inspection.
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1. The need for a change of age range - a statement and supporting evidence about the need for change of age range at the school including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate additional pupils in the current school:

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| The data demonstrate that there is a need to increase provision for 3 and 4 year olds in the local area.There is capacity to accommodate the new provision as this would be integrated into our Year R class as a Nursery / Year R mix. This is possible due to current low pupil admissions and the planned reduction in PAN from 21 to 15.  |

1. Implementation of the Proposals

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| *It is anticipated that the opening of the nursery provision at St Thomas’ will not require any additional accommodation or teaching groups and will require only minor staffing changes which can be accommodated within the school’s current structure.* *Funding for the Nursery class will be through EYNFF 15- and 30-hour funding. It is also anticipated that some funding will be received through the Early Year Supplementary Grant and Early Years Pupil Premium Grant.* *The class which will be a Nursery/Reception mix will be expected to open in September 2025 and will mean that the class structure moving forward for the school will be as follows:**Class 1 - Nursery / Year R**Class 2 - Year 1 / Year 2**Class 3 - Year 3 / Year 4**Class 4 - Year 5 / Year 6**With a maximum school capacity of 120.* |